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Public to help in choosing judges

Labour faces row over reforms to end elitism in the judiciary

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for lay people to help select judges threaten to embroil ministers in a row with the "legal establishment" over the "politicisation" of the judiciary.

The Times learnt last night that the Lord Chancellor's officials are drafting proposals to introduce public scrutiny and accountability into the way judges are chosen and to redress the imbalance of a judiciary dominated by white, middle-class men.

The plans of Lord Irvine of Lairg would create a Judicial Appointments Commission, including lay

as well as legal members, possibly appointed by ministers, which would draw up shortlists of candidates for judicial posts. A Commission would dilute the power of the judges who have traditionally made confidential recommendations to the Lord Chancellor for the top posts.

The present system has been criticised as being too secretive and heavily reliant on confidential files based on private soundings taken by officials from judges and the

profession. Under the reforms, which will be published in a consultation paper later in the summer, judges would still be consulted on candidates. But in what some judges see as a recipe for conflict, the Commission would have the final say over the shortlist of names to go to the Lord Chancellor.

The plans are a mark of Labour's determination to tackle concern at the "elitist" educational background of judges. Recent figures

showed that there were no women among 12 law lords; one woman among the 35 Court of Appeal judges and seven out of 96 High Court judges. Ethnic minority judges accounted for five of 517 circuit judges, 12 out of 391 recorders, nine of 354 assistant recorders and two out of 322 district judges.

Labour believes that it is unhealthy for the power of appointment to rest chiefly with the Lord Chancellor. But the Judges' Council, which represents the five most

senior judges, takes the opposite view. It says the move would "introduce politics into the process". Lord Taylor, the late Lord Chief Justice, told the recent Home Affairs Committee of MPs that he could not "imagine anything more horrific".

Yesterday a senior Court of Appeal judge, Lord Justice Saville, said that judges would want to see the details before forming a view. But he added: "Judges rightly would be concerned, until they see

the White Paper, about the dangers of politicising the system."

The present system worked well, he added. "But from the public's point of view, it is not seen to work well — people think it is all rather secretive." If that could be addressed, without creating the dangers of an American-style selection system, then judges would be ready to consider it.

The Law Society, the Association of Women Barristers and groups such as Justice all urged the

creation of a Commission in evidence to the Home Affairs Committee which reported on judicial appointments last year. The MPs rejected a Commission, splitting on party political lines. But the Labour members, including Chris Mullin, MP for Sunderland, strongly backed a Commission. He said: "We are concerned that an astonishing 80 per cent of the senior judiciary were privately educated."

Inevitably, a Commission will dilute the judges' power of appointment. If it rubber stamps their views, there is no point having it, supporters argue. But if it disagrees, then there is potential for public confrontation.

Juppé quits to give coalition five days to turn poll tide

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ALAIN JUPPÉ, France's embattled and unpopular Prime Minister, said yesterday that he would resign whatever the outcome of the country's parliamentary elections.

M. Juppé's announcement, a last-ditch attempt to turn the electoral tide before the final ballot on Sunday, came the day after his centre-right coalition suffered a drastic mauling in the first round of voting.

"A new team led by a new Prime Minister is needed," M. Juppé told colleagues after meeting President Chirac.

M. Juppé, 51, was blamed by voters for high taxes, rising unemployment and austerity measures aimed at ensuring that France qualifies to join the single European currency on time.

On Sunday the voters took their revenge, leaving the centre-right coalition trailing the left-wing parties by six percentage points and raising the spectre of an uncomfortable "cohabitation" between the conservative President and a Socialist-led Government.

"I will continue leading until the end of the combat. After that, I shall feel my task has been completed. A new stage must now begin. We have one week left to make the French people better understand our vision of the future," M. Juppé said.

Opposition leaders said the Prime Minister's move was an admission of failure. "This announcement is a sign of the coalition's panic in the face of a massive rejection by the electorate," Jack Lang, the former Socialist Culture Minister, said.

Opinion polls consistently showed M. Juppé to be the least popular Prime Minister in modern French history, but M. Chirac refused to dismiss his longest-serving adviser despite repeated sniping from within government ranks. Last week M. Chirac told aides that he would reappoint M.

Juppé if the centre-right majority was renewed.

Whether M. Juppé's departure will be enough to restore faith in the centre-right coalition in an increasingly tight race depends on the next five days of campaigning and who emerges as the likely candidate to replace him in the event of a centre-right victory.

M. Chirac is due to make a televised address to the nation tonight, when he is expected to appeal for support, but is unlikely to name the next Prime Minister.

Front-runners to step into M. Juppé's shoes if the Centre-Right wins include Philippe Séguin, the Gaullist parliamentary speaker and prominent Eurosceptic, and Edouard Balladur, the former Prime Minister who ran lost the presidential race to M. Chirac two years ago.

The President called the snap parliamentary election nearly a year early in an effort to gain a renewed mandate for the centre-right coalition in the run-up to European economic and monetary union. With M. Juppé on the way out, M. Chirac's gamble may just pay off.

Fellow members of the ruling coalition, including several who are jockeying to replace him, last night praised M. Juppé for his "courageous" decision to step down. But it remained unclear whether the Prime Minister had fallen on his sword voluntarily, or whether the weapon had been handed to him by M. Chirac.

Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the extreme-right National Front, which made significant gains in the first round, said that the President had obliged his Prime Minister to commit a "version of hara-kiri".

Centre-Right battle, page 12
Leading article, page 19



CHRIS HARRIS

THE warmest Whitsun bank holiday for five years brought out the crowds and the big wheel riders at Bournemouth, where the temperature reached 21C (70F).

Temperatures climbed steadily throughout the day to reach 22C in many inland areas. However, the

North had a cloudy afternoon although eastern and central Scotland were warm. The London Weather Centre said temperatures might drop today it should stay fine for the rest of the week.

Roads and big out-of-town shopping centres remained comparative-

ly quiet with few reports of traffic jams although a military tanker overturned and shed 6,000 litres of aviation fuel on the M6, which was closed in both directions between junction 14 and junction 15, the main turn-off for the Alton Towers theme park in Staffordshire.

With the beginning of school half terms many families made last-minute bookings on cross-channel ferries and airports were crowded. Manchester expected to handle 115,000 travellers over the weekend, with Majorca, the Costa del Sol and Tenerife the most popular destinations.

Forecast, page 22

Brown takes over EMU preparations from Bank

By PHILIP BASSETT
AND ANDREW PIERCE

GORDON BROWN has stepped up his efforts to prepare Britain for a single currency by taking control of some of the key preparations from the Bank of England.

The Treasury is working on detailed guidelines that will advise businesses to make their companies ready for full economic and monetary union (EMU). The guidelines, which will be published within months, spell out precisely what membership of the euro would mean to companies.

The disclosure that the

Chancellor has not only taken over the preparations from the Bank, but set them in train, will heighten suspicions that the Government intends to join a single currency.

The Treasury held talks at the end of last week with officials from a range of key organisations including the Bank, the Confederation of British Industry and the British Chambers of Commerce. Mr Brown has not decided on whether to embark on a joint publication with the three organisations or to publish his own document and use the three organisations to distribute it through their regional

and local networks. The guidelines will offer detailed advice to companies about the adjustments they will have to make to their operations including changes to computer systems.

But there were signs yesterday of unease on the Labour backbenches. Denis Davies, MP for Llanelli, who was Treasury Minister in the last Labour Government, said: "This is another clear sign that there is an agenda at the Treasury under Gordon Brown to bring in a single currency. This move has confirmed my

Continued on page 2, col 6

John Redwood, page 18

Bell set to join sleaze inquiry

Martin Bell, the first independent MP for 50 years, is poised to join the Commons standards and privileges committee which aims to root out sleaze in Parliamentary life. He may have to examine Neil Hamilton, his vanquished opponent in Tatton, over cash-for-questions. Page 2

Violent crime rate equals America's

Robbery, assaults and sexual attacks on women are as high in England and Wales as in America. People are more anxious about going out alone after dark than members of any of the other ten states studied as part of an international crime survey. Page 2

Drifting ice hazard as British women near Pole

By KATHRYN KNIGHT



Hudson: near target

FOUR British women were battling the last few miles across shifting ice last night to become the first all-female team to reach the North Pole.

Caroline Hamilton, 32, Pam Oliver, 45, Zoe Hudson, 30, and Lucy Roberts, 27, had only 16 miles to go when they last made contact with base camp early yesterday morning — but faced melting ice and fog as they raced to complete the 125-mile last leg of the two-month relay.

They may become marooned at the Pole if the weather is not clear enough for a plane to land and take

them back to their Resolute Bay base camp on Cornwallis Island in Canada's northwestern territories. Relatives of the four and expedition organisers were there waiting for news of Penguin Echo's progress. They were preparing to fly to Eureka, the Arctic weather station from which the rescue plane will take off.

Pen Hadow, an organiser, said that the women were having to walk longer hours with their sledges to compensate for a strong Arctic Ocean current that pushes the ice backwards. "It is like walking on a treadmill. They will want to spend as much time as they can walking, because up to 15

miles a day can be lost by drifting. At this point anything could happen because the ice is breaking up and drifting so much."

He added: "The ideal is that they stay at the Pole an hour, plant their flags and take their photos but they have had to reconcile themselves to the possibility of a long wait."

"If the weather is bad then we won't be able to get a plane to them. They have supplies to get them through a few days if necessary but obviously we're hoping to pick them up on a high."

Also at base camp is Tim Oliver, a brother of Ms Oliver. Continued on page 2, col 2



"I never thought I'd be envious of such a trip"

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Slim pickings mean last orders for Tory gentlemen's dining clubs



Waldegrave: a casualty of the Blue Chip club

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S landslide victory at the general election has administered a body blow to yet another venerable Tory institution, the gentlemen's dining club.

The clubs faded under Margaret Thatcher and John Major until about a dozen survived. But with only 164 Tory MPs, many of these will fold as there are not enough to go round.

The ranks of the Blue Chip dining club, made up of MPs elected in 1979, have been particularly hard hit. William Waldegrave

was one of the club's best known casualties. The members included John Patten and Tristan Garel-Jones, both former ministers who stood down at the election. John Major is another member. "I don't think he is going to be terribly interested in keeping it going. He is more interested in cricket," one Tory MP said last night.

Nick's Diner, formed in 1971, is also about to fold up the napkins for the last time. It was set up by Sir Nicholas Scott, who was defeated as the Tory MP for Kensington and Chelsea last year.

On the right-of-centre, the Snakes and Ladders club, set up in 1990,

has suffered a near mortal blow. The founding members, Sir Rhodes Boyson, Bob Dunn and James Pawsey, all lost their seats. Hartley Booth, a regular attendee, failed to secure a berth when his Finchley seat disappeared in boundary changes. The club hosted serious discussions with invited guests and got its name from the fact that "life is like that". However, it will attempt to soldier on.

One club has already gone into extinction. The Currie Club was set up by Tory MPs as a snub to Edwina Currie over her lectures on the British diet when she was a junior minister. They used to meet

in restaurants and choose the stodgiest food. But with the demise of Mrs Currie at the election it has lost its *raison d'être*.

Not all Tory MPs are downhearted and some predict that the art of political dining will make a comeback. They hope that, true to the spirit of Disraeli, tables laden with overcooked beef and fine claret may become the key to the intellectual reinvigoration of the Party.

Tim Yeo, who in 1984 founded The Third Term Group, which meets in MPs' London flats where an acquisitive wife obliges with the cooking, is planning a recruitment drive. Membership is supposed to

be secret, but two leading luminaries are William Hague and Virginia Bottomley. Cabinet ministers in the last government. "We used to publish papers but over the years we found it more convivial merely to dine," Mr Yeo said yesterday.

"But now we are in opposition, and ministers are not bound by collective responsibility, we may return to more serious discussions. The reorganisation of the party will be on one of our first menus."

The One Nation, the oldest Westminster dining club, is hoping to woo heavyweight figures such as Kenneth Clarke, whose membership was suspended when he joined

the government in 1979. Apart from representing the moderate wing of the party, the One Nation club serves food and wine that is reputedly the best at Westminster. Membership costs £100 a year and dinners are held each Wednesday.

Robert Jackson, the MP for Wantage and the club secretary, predicted that far from dying out, dining clubs would enjoy a renaissance. "Now we are in opposition, I think the dining clubs will produce discussion papers and pamphlets once again. But the times when MPs wrote a manifesto over several glasses of port and stilton are gone."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rifkind concedes benefits of devolution

Malcolm Rifkind, the former Scottish Secretary, has abandoned the Conservatives' pre-election argument that Scottish devolution would lead inevitably to the break-up of the United Kingdom. He conceded that there could be advantages to the creation of an elected assembly for Scotland.

Mr Rifkind, who lost the seat of Edinburgh Pentlands, insisted that devolution would put the United Kingdom at risk. But, he told *The Scotsman*: "I also believe the innate good sense of the Scottish and the English means that it is highly probable the UK will survive."

McAliskey birth

Roisin McAliskey, the terrorist suspect, gave birth to a 5lb 13oz girl in a hospital in north London yesterday. Sean McCotter, the father, and Bernadette McAliskey, his grandmother, were present during the ten-hour labour. Ms McAliskey, 25, has been held in Holloway prison while fighting extradition to Germany where she is wanted in connection with an IRA bomb attack on a British army base at Osnabrück last year.

Whitehall league

The Government has indicated it will publish league tables of the worst and best employers in the public service. The move could affect every department in Whitehall and many Government agencies. Senior officials will be expected to draw up a performance plan offering staff training opportunities and personal targets as part of a morale-boosting strategy after years in which posts were hived off to the private sector.

Prime of life

Helen Mirren has been voted the sexiest woman on television at the age of 50. In a *Radio Times* survey answered by 35,000 viewers, the star of *Prime Suspect* received 21 per cent of the vote. Gillian Anderson, 28, of *The X-Files*, received 16 per cent. David Duchovny, 36, also of *The X-Files*, was rated the sexiest man with 20 per cent, followed by George Clooney, 36, of *ER*, who was backed by 17 per cent.

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England and Wales head crime league of western nations

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

ROBBERY, assaults and sexual attacks on women are as high in England and Wales as in the United States, according to an international survey highlighting their position at the top of the crime league.

People in England and Wales are the most likely to be victims of crime and face the highest risks of being burgled or having their car stolen than citizens of other leading western countries. Fear of crime is so great that people are more anxious about going out alone after dark than those in any of the ten other states studied as part of the 1996 International Crime Victimization Survey.

The survey, prepared by the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice in The Netherlands, found that more than a third of people in England and

Wales have been a victim of crime in the last year — one of the highest rates in the industrialised world.

The crime record is worse than in the US, Canada, France, Switzerland, Scotland, Sweden, Finland, Austria and Northern Ireland. Only The Netherlands comes close to the record of England and Wales, Italy and Germany were not included in the study and the figures for Northern Ireland must be treated with caution because of the activities of paramilitaries. The survey consisted of interviews with a total of 20,000 people in 11 countries.

Yesterday Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said: "This confirms what I have been saying over the years about the record of England and

Wales for crime. It is a shocking, striking fact that England and Wales do have the worst record on car crime and burglary and gratuitous violence among most European countries."

Mr Straw, who was making his debut at the European Union Council of Ministers in Brussels, said the crime rate was the result of "incompetent Conservative administration", particularly the previous Government's failure to tackle the underlying causes of juvenile crime. He aimed to push through Labour's promise to put more police on patrol, and to appoint prominent crown prosecutors with responsibility similar to that of US District Attorneys.

Last night Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary, said the study should be treated with caution. He said victim-based crime surveys could sometimes create a more frightening picture than actually existed. He said he would not accept that crimes such as robbery and assault were as high in England and Wales as in the US. He pointed to an OECD survey published recently which showed that Britain had the highest fall in crime of any developed country between 1993 and 1995, the last year for which figures were available.

Michael Hough, director of the criminal policy research unit at South Bank University, said one factor for England and Wales having such a high crime rate was that they were heavily urbanised. With people living closer together and with fewer people per household in Britain than in other European countries, there were more opportunities for crimes such as burglary. Professor Hough said focusing on young offenders and getting the criminal justice system to work more efficiently was more sensible than having tough, expensive penalties targeted at older offenders.

Crack habit costs £20,000 a year

BY OUR HOME CORRESPONDENT

ADDICTS of crack cocaine spend an average of £20,000 a year on drugs, most of them raising the cash through crime, according to a Home Office study.

Many users of crack had a menu of other drugs that they took regularly to counter the "high" experience of cocaine with its subsequent "comedown". Among other drugs on the list were heroin and cannabis.

The links between drug-taking, crime and the "black" economy are confirmed by the research carried out in Greater Manchester, which found addicts working for cash or turning to burglary and prostitution.

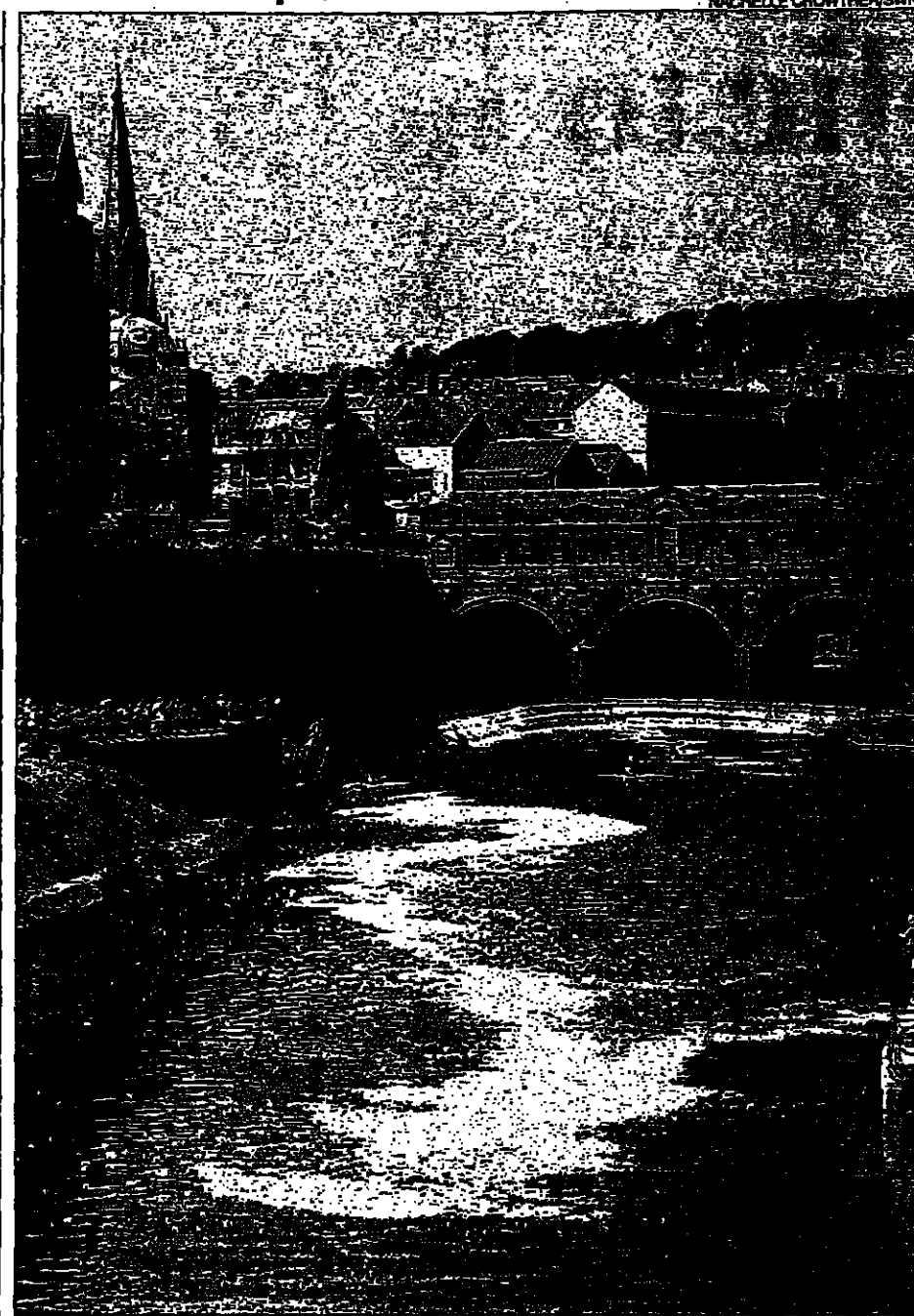
Although weekly crack bills ranged from £10 to £1,500, the need for other drugs pushed spending to more than £2,000 for some people. A crack cocaine addict's total drug bill

ranged from £6,000 to £40,000 a year.

The report, *Crack cocaine and drugs crime careers*, warns the Government of an increase in drug-driven crime and drug dealing, especially if crack takes a grip on deprived areas. Crack is spreading primarily among vulnerable individuals in poor areas, it says.

Two thirds of the sample of 63 were men in their mid to late twenties, mainly living on state benefits. Only eight had full-time jobs and all of these were in the black economy as they were paid cash. They were heavy smokers. Two thirds had been regular users of cannabis and a similar number had tried heroin before turning to crack cocaine.

Crack cocaine is a cooked form of powder cocaine. It produces more intense cravings.



A host of yellow plastic ducks nodding their way down the River Avon yesterday

WaterAid off a duck's back

ONE hundred thousand yellow plastic ducks cascaded into the River Avon yesterday with the aim of making a record-breaking splash for the charity WaterAid.

The event, which it hoped will enter *The Guinness Book of Records* as the largest duck race, could raise more than £50,000 for projects in Ethiopia.

"It's absolutely great," Jon Lane, the charity's director, said. "With just £10 we can provide clean water for life for

someone in Africa. So 5,000 Ethiopians have been helped to a better future."

Hundreds of onlookers gathered in the hope that their duck, sponsored for £1, would win them an 11-day holiday in Iceland, home to some of the rarest duck species.

A spokeswoman for Wessex Water, sponsors of the race, said: "We have to make sure that every single bird gets to the end. For environmental reasons, we cannot leave any ducks in the river."



Fitting the bill at £1 a go

Drifting ice delays polar women

Continued from page 1

who will be taking champagne to crack open at the Pole. "Unusually I think it will be a matter of trying to keep it warm," he said. "But we are determined to celebrate in style as this is a tremendous achievement. Very few people ever make it and my brother and I are really proud."

Jane Hamilton, mother of Miss Hamilton, the expedition leader, had never had any doubt that the team would succeed. "We're very, very excited. I've always had complete confidence in all the women. They all have great

spirit. The only thing they can't conquer is the weather. What they are about to do is truly historic."

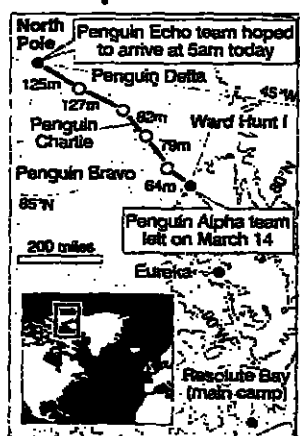
The 20 women have made the polar trek as a relay team, each four-member group being pulled out after completing its leg of the journey. Penguin Alpha set off on foot on March 5 from Ward Hunt island, off the northern coast of Ellesmere, the northernmost land in Canada, heading north for 64 miles before being taken over by Penguin Bravo.

The penultimate team, which included the Queen Mother's great-niece Rosie

Clayton, 37, spent four days and nights isolated on cracking, drifting ice at the end of their leg. They were downed to their last few pieces of chocolate when airlifted out earlier this month.

Drama came after only 12 days of the expedition when Ann Daniels, a 32-year-old mother of triplets, plunged through the ice into the freezing Arctic Ocean.

The twenty women were selected for the McVities Polar Relay after a series of rigorous training sessions on Dartmoor, Devon and the Brecon Beacons in Wales.



Brown prepares for EMU

Continued from page 1

suspensions. All the measures he has taken so far, such as giving control over interest rates to the Bank, are in preparation for a single currency. We will be watching carefully what the Government does from now on."

Ministers are waiting for the outcome of the latest CBI consultation on a single currency to give the Government an indication of what companies think about the euro. The findings are expected to show that large firms favour joining EMU.

Many businessmen believe that the appointment of pro-European personalities such as Sir David Simon, as Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, has increased the pressure on Tony Blair to agree to join the euro.

Ministers insist that no such decision has been made and that "formidable obstacles" remain to the United Kingdom joining, especially in the first wave on January 1, 1999. Labour's election manifesto pledged a referendum first.

John Redwood, the Eurosceptic Tory leadership contender, was disgraced, he said. "Gordon Brown and his Treasury team have gutted and filleted the Bank of England in preparation for it becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of the European central bank. This is further proof that they are preparing to surrender the pound."

John Redwood, page 15

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Josie Russell fears a return to hospital

Surgery poses new horrors for victim of hammer attack

By Richard Duce

JOSIE RUSSELL, the girl left for dead by the killer of her mother and sister, is so frightened of going back into hospital for further surgery to treat her injuries that she has threatened to run away from home.

Doctors recently advised Josie, aged ten, and her father, Shaun Russell, that she will probably need an artificial plate inserted in her skull. The plate, likely to be made from titanium, will cover a 20cm-square hole left by the hammer attack last summer.

She almost died in the assault, in which her mother, Lin, and six-year-old sister, Megan, were murdered as they walked home from school to the village of Nonington, near Canterbury, in July. The killer is still at large.

Father and daughter are now rebuilding their lives in North Wales, from where Dr Russell said: "Josie is tremendously unhappy about the idea of returning to hospital and was threatening to run away from home." It has been decided that, should Josie need the operation, she will not return to the hospital in London where she spent seven weeks after the attack.

"She looks back at the time with horror. It was the worst time of her life in terms of pain and horror." It was in hospital

that Josie was told that both her mother and sister had been killed and where she embarked on intensive therapy to improve her speech, which has still been left damaged by the attack.

Any new operation, which could keep her in hospital for up to ten days, is likely to be carried out in Liverpool or Manchester.

"The big thing for Josie is that it might mean having her hair shaved off again. Her

6 She is unhappy about the idea of returning to hospital and was threatening to run away from home

hair has now grown over her wounds." Dr Russell said. She took to wearing an assortment of hats after her initial operation last year to cover her scars and the fact that her hair was short.

Dr Russell, 47, who lives with his daughter in a former stamener's cottage near Caernarvon, said: "I am a lay person and have to be guided by the experts. If I am told it is absolutely necessary I will

have to help Josie to get through it."

Membrane from Josie's left thigh has already been grafted to the head wound above her ear as a protective layer to cover the small piece of outer brain tissue. Doctors will now have to assess whether the "open" wound poses a long-term threat to a girl who loves riding horses and could take a fall at any time.

"She is very settled at the moment, conducting a normal life. She has her friends here and loves riding her ponies. She loves it here." For her birthday, she went to Butlin's at Pwllheli.

She has returned to the Welsh-speaking school she attended for three years before the Russell family moved to Kent. Dr Russell's contract with Kent University as a lecturer in nature conservation expires next month and he is now looking for work that he can do from home. "I can't take much on because looking after Josie is my primary concern," he explained.

Dr Russell, who realises that media attention will again focus on his daughter when the anniversary of the murders is reached in July, prefers not to discuss the police investigation into the murders. Detectives recently disclosed that Mrs Russell and Megan had been tied up before being killed, but will not say whether Josie was also bound. Police who found her, after Dr Russell reported his family missing, initially believed her to be dead. She once returned to the scene of the murders in an attempt to help police, but without success.

Dr Russell took the decision to leave Nonington as being in the best interests of his daughter once she had recovered from her physical injuries. The family's love of North Wales was such that Dr Russell took the decision to have his wife and daughter buried in a 14th-century churchyard not far from their new home.



Josie Russell with the Duchess of Kent last year. She took to wearing hats to cover her scars and short hair



Grainne McGuinness: her father has shielded his children from public attention

Martin McGuinness's model daughter steps into limelight

By Nicholas Watt

SHE gazes wistfully from a window like a trapped princess in a fairy tale. The young woman in this picture has been inundated with offers of modelling work after her portrait won second prize in a national photographic competition. The prospect is believed to have horrified her father, Martin McGuinness, the chief negotiator for Sinn Féin.

Last night, Grainne McGuinness, 21, was said to have turned down the chance to pursue a lucrative modelling career after the picture's success in the Fuji UK Photographic awards. Her father, the newly elected MP for Mid-Ulster, and his wife, Bernadette, lead their family life

behind tight security in a small terraced house in the Roman Catholic Bogside area of Londonderry, and have gone out of their way to shield their five children from public attention.

Grainne is their eldest daughter and works for a fashionable clothes shop in her home town. The local photographer who took the picture said that she had a future as a model. Andrea O'Hare said: "She's good, a superb natural. She is very easy to photograph and she got into a pose with no problem whatsoever."

Mr McGuinness, 46, is a teetotaler and a non-smoker, who regularly attends Mass. Dr Edward Daly, the former

Roman Catholic Bishop of Derry, said that he fundamentally disagreed with Mr McGuinness on violence, which the Sinn Féin man believed to be "morally justified". However, Dr Daly described Mr McGuinness's private life as exemplary: "He is a good father, a good husband, a strong churchgoer. I believe him to be honest and upright in his moral conduct."

Grainne McGuinness is not the only offspring of a republican leader to be making waves. Gearoid Adams, the 23-year-old son of Gerry Adams, is an accomplished Gaelic football player who is a member of the Co Antrim team.

Call for tighter safety checks as kick-boxer dies after fight

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent

A KICK-BOXER aged 18 died in hospital yesterday after collapsing in the ring at the end of a gruelling fight in front of a large crowd of supporters, including his parents.

Sean McBride, who had won his bout in Dungannon, Co Tyrone, on Friday night, is believed to be the first kick-boxer to die at a fight in the British Isles. His death led to calls for tougher safety checks at competitions.

Mr McBride's parents said last night that they had watched in horror as their son collapsed at the Glengannon Hotel. They were unable to fight their way through the crowds as he was carried out to an ambulance on a stretcher. The kick-boxer was taken by to the nearby South Tyrone Hospital and later transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast. He was put on a life-support machine but never regained consciousness. He was declared clinically dead on Sunday and the machine was switched off yesterday.

Mary McBride, who watched the fight with her husband, also Sean, and three daughters, said: "It's an awful tragedy. It's unbelievable. He was our only son. He seemed to be all right and then suddenly he dropped. He was on a stretcher being taken away by the ambulance men and I couldn't get close to him."

Mrs McBride, who was speaking at her home in Cabra, near Dungannon, said that her son had only recently taken up kick-boxing again. In September he had been at the wheel of a car which crashed, killing his best friend. "After that accident he lost all interest in kick-boxing, but then he started again. Football and boxing was his life."

Police are investigating Mr McBride's death and are to interview two brothers, Stewart and Conrad Kirk, who organised the fight. They were unavailable for comment last night.

Mr McBride's death fuelled criticism of safety standards at kick-boxing competitions. Billy Murray, the International

Sport Kick-Boxing Association world champion, accused the Sports Council of ignoring requests to tighten rules at competitions. He said: "It was a tragedy waiting to happen. For many years we have been battling to get all kick-boxing groups to come together and get a governing body and we have asked the Sports Council to do this on many occasions. They have pushed kick-boxing under the carpet, hoping it will go away, but it won't go away."

"If this was controlled at government level this would not have happened. It was a tragedy to the sport and it's a tragedy for his family. It's a totally unnecessary death."

The sport, devised in the United States in the 1970s by karate experts, is popular in Northern Ireland and Friday night's contest was well attended.

More than 100,000 people have taken up the sport in Britain. All competitors wear lightweight boxing gloves, foam-rubber foot coverings without soles, and mouth, shin and groin guards. Juniors have to wear protective headgear, although this is optional for adults. Fights takes place on a matted square. Points are awarded for blows to the head or body with hands or feet. Most bouts consist of a single three-minute round, although finals can be extended.



McBride had recently returned to the sport

Cracker to hunt serial litterbug

By Russell Jenkins

A PSYCHOLOGICAL profile like those drawn up by television's Cracker is being prepared to track down a litter bug who strews rubbish around a cathedral town.

Environmental health officers in Chester are consulting medical experts to obtain the kind of mental portrait more usually developed to track serial killers. But this is no ordinary litterbug.

Dubbed "The Phantom", he cuts up magazines, newspapers and junk mail into 2in squares then, as darkness falls, bicycles around the city scattering the paper from a specially cut hole in his shopping bag. Each of his appearances costs the council about £200 to clear up.

The council has also set up a telephone "hotline", alerted neighbourhood watch schemes and begun a joint investigation with the police. But The Phantom, who strikes several times a month, has come close to capture only once - when he bent the front wheel of his bike as he crashed into a kerb while fleeing from a mob of angry residents.

Woman in abortion case may decide to keep baby

By Shirley English

LYNNE KELLY, whose husband is trying to prevent her having an abortion, has indicated that she may keep the child if delays continue. It emerged yesterday that she could face a further week's wait before the appeal brought by her husband can be heard by the House of Lords.

The Whit holiday means that lawyers for James Kelly have faced considerable hurdles in fixing a date for the hearing. The earliest provisional date is next Monday. Mrs Kelly has said she is running out of time to have the abortion without the trauma of an induced labour.

Mr Kelly, 28, of Inverkeithing, Fife, who was convicted of assault on his wife a year ago, has so far lost every round in his legal battle to stop her having a termination. He has been able to halt the operation because the Scottish courts have upheld a temporary ban on his estranged wife having an abortion, in order to maintain the status quo.

On Saturday three judges agreed with earlier rulings that a father had no legal

rights to interfere on behalf of his unborn child, but they granted Mr Kelly leave to appeal to the Lords. He is the third father in Britain to take an abortion case to the highest level, but the first to have been given the legal means to stop, even temporarily, the operation taking place.

Today the Court of Session in Edinburgh will hear from Mr Kelly's lawyers when the latest appeal is likely to be heard. Mrs Kelly's one hope would be that the court might decide if the delay is too protracted that in view of the urgency of the situation the operation can go ahead. The appeal petition will be lodged this Wednesday in London. Mr Kelly is on legal aid.

Yesterday Mrs Kelly, 21, a cabaret singer, told a tabloid newspaper that she might decide to keep the child because of the delays. The couple, who have an 18-month-old daughter, Hazel, separated three weeks ago after a stormy marriage during which Mrs Kelly had to stay in a refuge.

At the first appeal hearing

on Friday her legal team told the court that it was "a matter of days" before she would be unable to have an abortion without having labour induced. She is believed to be 14 weeks pregnant. She told the Glasgow-based newspaper, the Daily Record, "The way things are just now I will carry on with the abortion. But if the matter is delayed further by the courts, then I may have to reconsider my decision."

"If the case goes to the House of Lords, who knows when it will be heard? That could make the difference of me having to have a labour-induced termination, and that is something I would have very strong doubts about."

Yesterday Jane Roe, of the Abortion Law Reform Association, said it would be "extremely unlikely" that the Lords would even hear the latest appeal because previous cases at the level of the Lords had already established the law, and applied throughout Britain.

She added that there was a "fast track" facility for urgent medical hearings.

Final whistle for Nollie the fly-half

By Robin Young

BURLY teenage rugby players breathed a sigh of relief yesterday: they no longer face the risk of having to grapple with a teenage girl.

Danielle Waterman, Minehead Barbarians' star fly-half, has been forced to hang up her boots for three years because she has reached her 13th birthday.

Danielle, who prefers to be known by her nickname, Nollie, is the hard-playing daughter of Bath rugby club's former skipper, Jim Waterman, and she has been playing since she was three.

She strikes fear into the hearts of bigger, beefier boys with her prowess, but Rugby Football Union rules say girls can play in mixed rugby only until the age of 12. Thereafter, they have to wait until their 16th birthday before they can

join a women-only team. Nollie, who is 4ft 11in tall and weighs seven stone, recently became her team's junior clubman of the year. Her father, who played for Bath between 1968 and 1982, said it was tragic that she had to stop. A former Oxford Blue, Mr Waterman, who captained Bath in the mid-1970s, said: "Nollie is great at rugby and is awesome on the field. Women's rugby could do with a talent like her and if she does not get the training she needs now the sport could be losing out."

The RFU brought in the age limit three years ago, "to protect girls" after taking advice from medical officers. But Mr Waterman claims his daughter is tough enough to stand the knocks on the field. He added: "I have never seen



Nollie more than a match for any boy in the team

a girl tackle like Nollie. She is very keen on sport and she finds girls' games like netball are just not exhilarating enough. She enjoys the hard physical side of rugby."

The Barbarians' coach, Paddy Parnell, believes Nollie is a match for any boy on the

pitch. He said: "She is simply the best player of her age we have. She is quite amazing. She is not just good enough for a girl. She is better than any of the boys. Even when she played for the under-nines she was so outstanding that people used to come to watch her. Nollie used to smash hell out of the boys who were much bigger than she was. The most remarkable sight is to see three or four people trying to tackle her and then to see her come out the other side with the ball."

Nollie, a pupil at Minehead Middle School, said: "I'm annoyed at having to give up. I've never been badly hurt playing rugby. I've just had one or two bruises. I want to carry on playing. I hope I might be able to start my own girls' team but there are not many rugby-playing girls in Minehead so it is difficult."

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Ex-soldiers lend skills to army of protesters

By Stephen Farrell

CAMPAIGNERS against the proposed £172 million second runway at Manchester Airport predicted yesterday that the next stage of the bailiffs' operation to clear the camps would prove more difficult for the authorities.

Three of the six camps set up by tree dwellers and tunnelers have been cleared, but three elaborate tunnels in the remaining camps bar the way for the bailiffs trying to clear the land. One of the tunnels, at the Flywood camp, is more than 70ft deep and reinforced with metal and concrete.

The protesters' ranks are reinforced by former soldiers who deploy skills learnt in the

tactics of sheriff's officers who began evictions from the camps eight days ago.

Neville, 42, who joined the Grenadier Guards at the age of 15 and served for four years, said yesterday at Flywood Camp: "Military training is the perfect preparation for this way of life: living in the woods, digging trenches, making bivouacs, surveillance, counter-surveillance and understanding tactics."

"The difference here is that it is a non-violent protest and there is absolutely nobody telling us what to do. It's like an army without Rupert's [officers], I feel somewhat disenfranchised and this is my way, in some small part, of regaining power. I can't do anything about the slashing and burning of rain forests in Brazil but I can protect some of our global environment, even if it is a small wood in Cheshire."

Muppet Dave, 30, an infantryman who became a homeless seller of *The Big Issue*, said he was disgusted by his experiences during three years in the forces. One of four protesters who occupied the Devon A30 tunnel with Swampy last January, he has dug a new burrow nicknamed The Cuckoo.

"I served in Northern Ireland and I realised how far the authorities will go," he said. "I am quite happy to work against these people. I realised the real enemy was in Downing Street, screwing up our country. I want to put a sign on my tunnel saying 'I am defending my country, what are you doing?'"

Many of the private security guards hired to patrol the security fence around the camps are former soldiers and insults are often exchanged between the two sides.

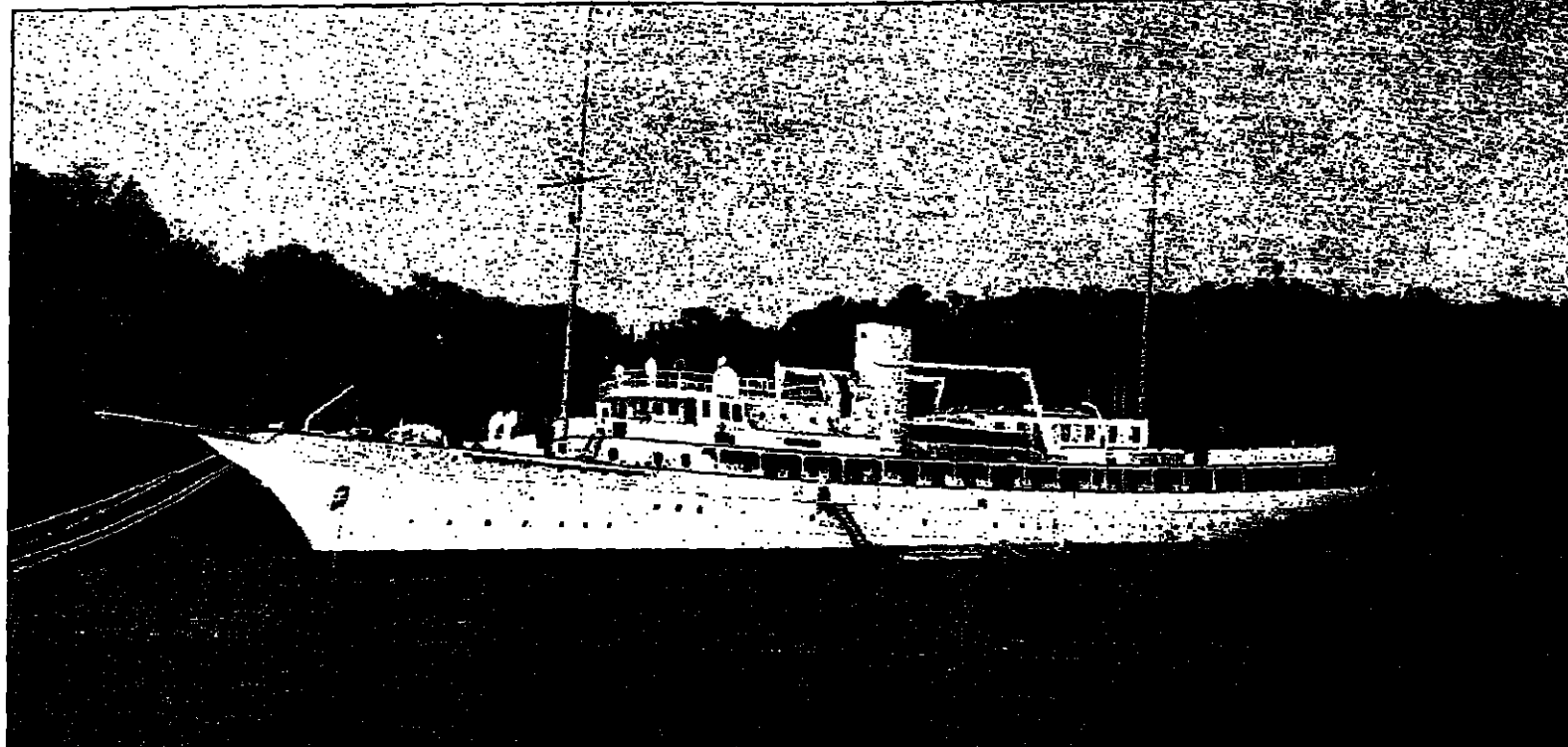
Eight activists were arrested on Sunday night and another yesterday. They have been charged with obstruction and bailed to appear before magistrates in Crewe.



Muppet Dave: disgusted by three years in Army

Army to resist bailiffs. Up to a dozen of the 60 protesters in six camps near Sial, Cheshire, are disaffected ex-squaddies from the Grenadier Guards, The Parachute Regiment, The Queen's Regiment, and The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

Some drifted into environmental activism after periods of unemployment when they returned to civilian life. Most have now been "Pansied" — declared a Political Activist Not Seeking Employment — by the Department of Social Security and disqualified from claiming benefits. They believe their training equipped them to live rough and to counter



Mr Getty renamed the *Talitha G* after his late wife and undertook a £10 million refit, which included a reproduction Edwardian interior.



By Joanna Bale

THE philanthropist John Paul Getty is to lend his motor yacht to the Duke of Edinburgh for Cowes week after the decommissioning of the Royal Yacht *Britannia*. The Duke will use Mr Getty's 217ft *Talitha G* as a base during the regatta, where last year *Britannia* was given a rousing send-off after 35 years as its centrepiece.

Although Mr Getty's vessel is 142ft shorter than the Royal Yacht, the Duke and his party will probably enjoy higher standards of comfort. Its reproduction Edwardian interior, created during a two-year £10 million refit by the yacht designer Jon Bannenburg, has hand-crafted rare wood veneers, fabric-lined walls and marble bathrooms. In comparison, the relatively modern decor of *Britannia* has been described as "more comfortably suburban than grand".

Reg Shield, marketing manager of Devonport Management, which undertook the refit at Devonport Docks, Plymouth, during the early 1990s,

Getty sails to Duke's rescue with loan of yacht for Cowes week

She was built in Germany in 1929 for an American and is still among the world's top 20 largest yachts. We stripped her down to the bare metal structure and completely rebuilt her to very high standards of craftsmanship and safety. Apart from the modern galley and engine room, everything is in an authentic Edwardian style which was the result of a lot of research into design and fabric patterns of the period. It is quite strange when you step on board — rather like being in a time warp. Most yachts have modern interiors so this one is very unusual.

The exact layout of Mr Getty's yacht

has been kept secret amid fears of kidnapping. He was elected an overseas member of the Royal Yacht Squadron last year. The Duke is Admiral of the squadron and membership privileges include use of the Cowes Castle clubhouse and flying the White Ensign. The Squadron has 420 members paying £500 a year, as well as naval members and a few overseas members. It has a reputation for blackballing among those heeded was Earl Mountbatten of Burma and the supermarket tycoon Sir Thomas Lipton, who was turned down because he was "in trade".

The Duke is believed to be planning

to occupy Mr Getty's personal suite during the August regatta. Other members of the Royal Family are expected on board, but it is not known whether Mr Getty will join them.

Mr Getty bought the yacht, then called *Jezebel*, from the Australian film producer Robert Stigwood in 1986. He renamed her after his late wife Talitha Pol, who died of a heroin overdose in Rome in 1972. The American oil heir lives in a penthouse in St James's, central London, and a 3,000-acre Buckinghamshire estate. He was knighted in 1986 after donating millions of pounds to worthy causes, including £50 million to the National Gallery and £20 million to the National Film Institute.

Britannia is on a trade tour of the Mediterranean, Middle East and Far East, which includes a stop in Hong Kong for the British handover to China. She will return to Britain in early August, when the Queen will enjoy a final cruise around the coast of Britain before the Royal Yacht is decommissioned later in the month.

Aerobics fail to increase children's fitness

By Ian Murray and Carol Midgley

VIGOROUS aerobic exercise is a waste of time for children, who end up no fitter than friends who take less exercise, researchers said yesterday.

Despite fears that today's children are leading increasingly inactive lives, a study of girls aged nine and ten found that strenuous exercise made no difference to their fitness or cholesterol levels.

Half the girls who took part in the study were put through three sessions a week of floor and step aerobics for eight weeks, while the other half trained on cycle machines for the same period. The study found that at the end there was virtually no change in peak aerobic fitness in either group, nor any improvement in heart rate response.

The researchers, from the Children's Health and Exercise Centre at Exeter University, chose to focus on the 40 girls because they represented a group that had been largely ignored in previous studies into fitness.

Some experts believe that children at a certain age have a "trigger point" below which they are unable to improve aerobic fitness. Others had insisted there was no evidence that pre-pubescent children were any less responsive to training than older individuals.

The research team, led by Joanne Welman, concluded that structured physical training may be a waste of time for young children. Dr Welman evaluates the results in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*.

"Given these findings and the evidence that it is children's low levels of habitual physical activity that are more cause for concern than their aerobic fitness, it may be more important for children's future health and well-being to focus upon encouraging them to adopt more active lifestyles and develop positive attitudes towards physical activity than emphasising exercise training to enhance aerobic fitness," she writes.

Leading article, page 19

GPs not up to speed on drugs and athletes

By Ian Murray
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

GPs have a very poor knowledge of the drugs they can and cannot prescribe to competing athletes, according to a survey published today in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*.

Only one in three of the 159 doctors who took part knew that the International Olympic Committee guidelines on drug-taking could be found in the British National Formulary, which the profession uses as its bible for prescriptions.

Despite extensive publicity about the fact that steroids have been banned for use since 1975, almost one doctor in three thought they could be prescribed or simply did not know. One doctor in five had been asked to prescribe anabolic steroids for non-medical purposes by athletes.

One in four did not know that it was acceptable to prescribe anti-asthmatic inhalants to athletes but that oral tablets of corticosteroids were banned.

Archbishop celebrates work of St Augustine in 'the roots of our land and of our people'

Prince united with Church in steps of Christian history

By Emma Wilkins

THE Prince of Wales joined a congregation of 2,000 yesterday to celebrate the 1,400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Archbishop of Canterbury to meet pagan English royalty of the Dark Ages.

Dr George Carey, the 103rd Archbishop, led yesterday's service commemorating the work of St Augustine, and said: "This is a great day of celebration for the whole nation. We give thanks to God for the Christian roots of our land, for the part which the Gospel has played in the formation of our people."

The Prince is keen to reaffirm his own commitment to the Church of England. Although he continues to pursue his interest in Islam, his presence at Canterbury Cathedral was welcomed by the Church of England as a sign of his enthusiasm for his future role at its head.

Among the congregation were 50 pilgrims who set out from the Vatican a week ago

by coach, to reach England for the anniversary of St Augustine's arrival in 597. Augustine's journey on the orders of Pope Gregory took more than a year.

The Archbishop said that the saint's message as an early ambassador for Christianity should serve as a warning to divided Christian communities throughout the world: "It is a message to us, the Church, and it challenges our obsession with security, our faithlessness and our disunity."

Among the 50 pilgrims from Rome who paid £300 each to cover their travel costs was Lucretia Balatri, 21, a student from Florence. Eating a picnic lunch in a Canterbury park after the service, she said: "It is easier to be a pilgrim in 1997. St Augustine was very fearful because he did not know what sort of reception he would get when he arrived. We have had a warm welcome wherever we are gone."

The group included Irish,

Scots, English, German, American and French people from many Christian denominations. Tricia Troughon, 48, a Baptist minister from Saffron Walden, said: "We have had wonderful welcomes wherever we went, but Assisi was especially warm. The monks gave us a terrific dinner."

The pilgrims were joined yesterday by 250 people who will journey across England and Scotland before meeting in Londonderry on June 9 to mark St Columba's Day. This year is also the 1,400th anniversary of his death.

The pilgrimages are following three routes: up the east coast to Lindisfarne and crossing to Glasgow and Iona, through central England to Manchester and Carlisle; and across the South West and Wales. The new pilgrims will walk up to eight miles a day while coaches carry their luggage, then meet for overnight stays with Christian groups.



Commitment: the Prince with Dr Carey yesterday

Pope had to push reluctant envoy

By Robin Young

SAINT AUGUSTINE, whose arrival in Kent was commemorated yesterday, was not himself a valiant or resolute pilgrim.

Sent by Pope Gregory the Great at the head of a band of 40 missionary-monks to renew Christianity in a land where it had been largely overrun by barbarous pagan hordes of Jutes, Angles and Saxons, he suffered a bad attack of cold feet en route through Gaul. He returned to Rome to beg the Pope to recall him and his men, explaining that his companions were "appalled at the idea of going to a barbarous, fierce and pagan nation of whose very language they were ignorant".

The Pope, however, was firm. "My very dear sons," he responded, "it is better never to undertake any high enterprise than to abandon it once begun. So with the help of God you must carry out this task which you have started."

In fact, conditions were not quite as dreadful as Augustine

had feared. There were already Christians in Britain and an established Christian tradition. St Alban had been martyred in about 209, but a Bishop of London had attended the Council of Arles in 314. In the North, St Columba, the 1,400th anniversary of whose death is also marked this year, had already spread Celtic Christianity from its outpost in Ireland.

Indeed, when Augustine and his 40 monks came ashore at Ebbsfleet, on Pegwell Bay, in 597AD, they were to be welcomed by a Christian Queen, Bertha, a Frankish princess who prayed for 35 years that her husband, Ethelbert, should also be converted. Ethelbert remained a pagan, but he allowed the saint's monks to rebuild the Roman ruin of St Martin's Church in Canterbury as a private chapel for his wife, and gave them the land for their abbey and for Canterbury's first cathedral, which burnt down in 1067.

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The Sun
28 Feb '97

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Unless the Government stands up for them this coming June, animals won't have a leg to stand on.



Next Monday, June 2, at the meeting of European Union Foreign Ministers in Luxembourg, Mr Robin Cook, the British Foreign Secretary, will have a concrete opportunity to demonstrate Britain's commitment to an "international moral vision" by taking the lead on behalf of the United Kingdom Government in support of a world-wide ban on the use of leghold traps.

On June 19, at the meeting of EU Environment Ministers, Environment Minister Michael Meacher, will be asked to take a final decision on this dossier.

This hideously cruel device is already banned in over 60 countries, including all the nations of the European Union. The EU has also agreed to ban the import of furs from countries still using leghold traps. That ban should have been enforced at the beginning of last year. However, the European

Commission rather than risk upsetting the powerful World Trade Organization, shamefully refused to implement and enforce the EU rules.

Instead, the Commission - at the insistence of Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan - has cynically proposed an "International Agreement on Humane Trapping Standards" which does almost nothing for animal welfare but which is simply intended to offer Ministers a "political solution" while safeguarding the primacy of trade and business over environment and animal welfare considerations.

The proposed International Agreement actually aims to "facilitate trade" in furs, including those from animals caught in leghold traps! It contains no provision to ban all types of leghold trap, and permits so-called "padded" leghold traps to be used indefinitely.

Mr Cook, Mr Meacher, ... don't be fooled.

There is nothing "humane" about the padded leghold trap. An animal will still endure agonizing pain, as it is caught in the vice-like grip of the trap's jaws. The "padding", a thin strip of rubber or plastic, will do next to nothing to ease the suffering. The animal could be left for days before being found. Terrified, it could well try to chew itself free, even biting its own leg off in its attempt to escape.

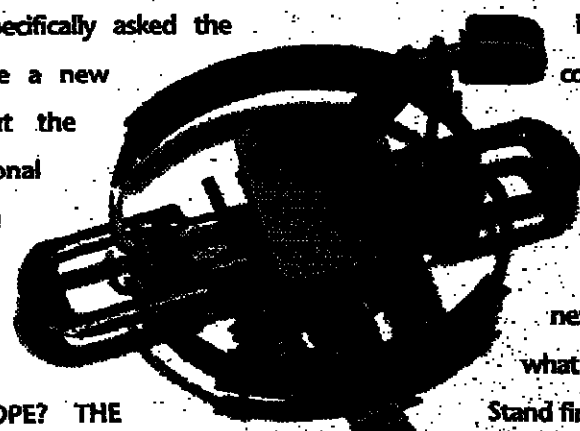
On numerous occasions, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament have made it clear to the European Commission that the current proposals are totally unacceptable. Environment Ministers specifically asked the Commission to negotiate a new tougher agreement. But the new proposed international agreement is a sham which will not in any way reduce the suffering of trapped animals.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION? THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION? OR THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMBER STATES?

Mr Cook, Mr Meacher, ... we appeal to you to take the toughest, possible line with the Commission. DON'T LET SIR LEON BRITTAN BULLY YOU! You must insist that any international agreement, as an absolute minimum, bans all types of leghold trap now. If this most basic requirement is not met, you and your ministerial colleagues should reject the draft agreement in its entirety.

You must also insist that the EU ban on fur imports from countries which continue to use the leghold trap be implemented immediately - as it should have been at the beginning of 1996.

So, Mr Cook, Mr Meacher, next month do for the animals what they can't do for themselves. Stand firm!



WHO RUNS EUROPE? THE



Write to Mr Michael Meacher now at the Department of the Environment, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU. Urge him to enforce the EU fur import ban and stand firm against the use of leghold traps anywhere in the world.

Estate residents protest at choice of neighbours

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

Council insists on quota of poor and minorities on suburban development

HOMES on a new private estate are to be set aside for ethnic minorities and the poor. The project has outraged middle-class residents, who fear that it will drive down house prices.

A quarter of all homes on the 500-dwelling suburban estate are to be used to provide social housing for the white unemployed, ethnic minorities and the low-paid from inner-city areas of Birmingham. Officials from Birmingham City Council have told a consortium of builders developing a 40-acre site

at Sutton Coldfield that 120 dwellings must be low cost, under part-ownership, and for rent. They are insisting that the social housing be spread throughout the estate to prevent the creation of a ghetto and to encourage the development of a mixed community.

The project has angered residents living near the proposed estate, where houses cost about £100,000. They fear that it will blight their properties. William Hayes, 84, a retired engineer, said:

"We are going to have a lot of irresponsible people pushed onto us — I don't know how to put it without sounding snobbish, but probably some low elements, irresponsible people. People here are worried about the value of their property and the effect it will have on their way of life."

There also fears about the effects of such a development on schools, road congestion and other amenities. William Court, of the Roughley and District Residents

Association, said that the sub-post office would be unable to cope if many of the people in the social housing were on benefits.

A local action group has criticised the city council for insisting on reserving 25 per cent of the development for social housing. Richard Harwood, chairman of the Roughley action group, said that residents had been led to believe that they would be low-cost starter homes, not social housing. He said: "We accept entirely the need for

some element of social housing and we are not against that, but we think 25 per cent is too high."

Mr Harwood, who has lived near the site for 22 years, added: "The builders were not happy. It is going to bring down the price of the private houses and people like ourselves who may wish to move will find we are blighted."

The Labour-controlled city council decided on a 25 per cent quota after a regional planning study found that 39 per cent of new

homes in the West Midlands should be social housing, rising to 49 per cent in Birmingham.

Robin Paice, vice-chairman of the city's planning committee, defended the proposal and said that the fears of people in Sutton Coldfield were based on ignorance of the inner cities. "There is social polarisation in Birmingham. People are fleeing from the inner-city, particularly the middle classes."

"The inner-city has a disproportional number of ethnic minorities, the less well-off and the unemployed, while suburban areas have better-off middle classes and very few ethnic minorities. It is important we find some mechanism whereby some social housing takes place on greenfield sites and in outer areas."

Mr Paice, who lives in Edgbaston, said that many well-kept, if modest, homes could be found in the inner-cities. It was not the responsibility of the planning committee to take into account the repercussions of the plan on house prices.

Warship captain escapes fatal helicopter crash

By Joanna Bale

THE captain of a Royal Navy warship escaped virtually unscathed when a helicopter in which he was a passenger crashed into the sea, killing an Italian captain of another warship.

The accident happened when the helicopter clipped the edge of HMS Birmingham's flight deck as it came into land on Sunday afternoon off the coast of Gibraltar. Commander Michael Evans, of Alverstoke, Hampshire, escaped with cuts and bruises. Two of the aircrew in the Italian Augusta Bell 212 helicopter suffered minor injuries and a third crew member a suspected dislocated shoulder. None of the 280 personnel on board the destroyer, which is based at Portsmouth, was injured.

The accident happened after a meeting on board the Greek

frigate Limnos involving the captains of warships assigned to Nato's standing naval force in the Mediterranean. The Italian helicopter from the frigate Scirocco was flying Commander Evans and the captain of the Scirocco back to their ships.

The body of the Italian captain was taken to his ship. The three aircrew remained on board the Birmingham, which immediately headed to Gibraltar to take them to hospital.

At the time of the accident, about 2.30pm, the sea conditions were said to be "benign". It was overcast, but visibility was good. The helicopter had flotation bags. A Royal Navy spokeswoman said an investigation would take place.

HMS Birmingham, which is 20 years old, sustained some damage to her stern but was due to sail from Gibraltar today, with her captain, to continue her programme.

Landing helicopters on the flight decks of ships at sea requires great skill but it is a routine procedure on board the warships of many navies. Commander Evans will have had extensive training in coping with a helicopter ditching at sea. Royal Navy personnel learn how to find the escape routes in the turmoil of such an accident.

One of the greatest hazards is the helicopter's rotor blades which can continue to turn even after it hits the water.



Evans: trained to cope with ditching at sea



Mr and Mrs Cording decided to build an American-style log cabin after their 12-year-old daughter, below, was killed in a riding accident in 1995

Family builds log cabin memorial

By a Staff Reporter

A MOTHER and father have erected a log cabin as a memorial to their 12-year-old daughter, killed in a riding accident two years ago.

Mike and Jan Cording decided to build the American-style cabin after a horse kicked Danielle and broke her neck. Mr Cording, 54, who runs a window company with his wife, had

stayed in a log cabin during a visit to Pennsylvania in the 1980s.

The couple, who have two sons, aged 15 and 11, decided to make a log cabin the family's fresh start after struggling to come to terms with the loss of their daughter. They chose a plot beside a canal in Long Eaton, Nottinghamshire, acquired planning permission, demolished the existing Victorian house, then searched for a replacement. Dan's Log

Cabin, as the Cordings have named their £23,000 three-bedroomed fully-fitted home, arrived ten days ago on the back of two lorries from its previous site in Matlock, Derbyshire. To add a touch of authenticity, the couple planted pine trees around the site. Mrs Cording said: "When Danielle died things just stopped for us. We know this is something she would have wanted and it is time to move on. It's given us a new focus in life."



County Hall could house London mayor

By Alexandra Frean
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

COUNTY HALL, the former home of the disbanded Greater London Council, and Middlesex Guildhall, an imposing court building on Parliament Square, are being suggested as headquarters for Britain's first elected mayor.

Located a stone's throw from the House of Commons, both County Hall and the Middlesex Guildhall combine a picturesque setting with proximity to the levers of power and accessibility to the people of London. There will be a referendum next May on whether London should have a

mayor and a Greater London Authority, as proposed in the Queen's Speech. The post is unlikely to take effect before 2000.

Tony Travers, a local government expert at the London School of Economics, believes that, unlike the GLC, which employed 25,000 people, the new authority would have a staff of up to 250 and could fit easily into premises of a modest 40,000 sq ft. He believes that it would do well to take space in County Hall.

The building now includes flats, offices, an aquarium and will soon contain an hotel, as well as the old council chamber, which is listed. Shiryama Shokusan, the Japanese developer that owns the build-

ing, has offered Tony Blair the chamber and up to 200,000 sq ft of offices for the mayor and administration. Mac Okamoto, a spokesman for the company, said that it would be prepared to keep the space vacant for three years, until the authority comes into being.

Lord Archer, a former GLC councillor who has declared his interest in the mayoral post, believes that the guildhall, on the corner of Parliament Square and Victoria Street, would be suitable, if the Lord Chancellor is prepared to relinquish it. The neo-Gothic building, erected in 1906 for the administration of Middlesex, houses seven Crown courtrooms.

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£ 5,000+	2.70	2.16	2.67	2.14
£ 500+	2.35	1.88	2.33	1.86
Below £500	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.40

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Below £10,000	2.33	1.86		

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Taleban imposes work ban on north's women

TALEBAN troops poured into the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif yesterday, flushing out the last pockets of resistance and imposing restrictions on women. Females must not work, nor attend school or university, and have been ordered to cover their faces outside the home.

This is now law in 90 per cent of the country controlled by Taleban. The extension of the rules to the north was announced by Mullah Abdul Razaq, the newly installed Governor, known as an Islamic hardliner. He reinforced this reputation by warning that thieves would lose a hand and a foot.

He said this in Pashtu, not widely understood in Mazar-i-Sharif. People walked out while he was still speaking, frustrated that they did not know what he was saying — an incident that demonstrated how difficult it will be for Taleban, a southern force in unfamiliar territory, to establish itself securely in the north.

Men are wondering whether they can still shave. There are no longer any unveiled



Christopher Thomas reports from Mazar-i-Sharif that the language barrier makes the invaders incomprehensible

women on the streets and people are nervous of playing music, which is banned in other Taleban-controlled areas. The city picks up a host of foreign television stations because of its proximity to Central Asia, but television may be outlawed as un-Islamic. Non-religious music could also be banned.

General Abdul Malik, who captured the city on Saturday less than a week after leading a mutiny against the previous rulers, held talks with Taleban leaders yesterday on establishing a power-sharing structure — rarely successful in Afghanistan, where tribal and ethnic loyalties are paramount. His partnership with Taleban is tenuous, "one bullet away from disintegration", as a foreign aid worker put it.

The general, a portly man without a beard — he says that

he may grow a beard, in line with Taleban law — is Uzbek and Taleban is mostly Pashtun.

This alone is a recipe for conflict, apart from any ideological disagreements over the kind of Islamic system that ought to operate in the north. Mazar-i-Sharif, the northern capital, is principally Uzbek and Tajik.

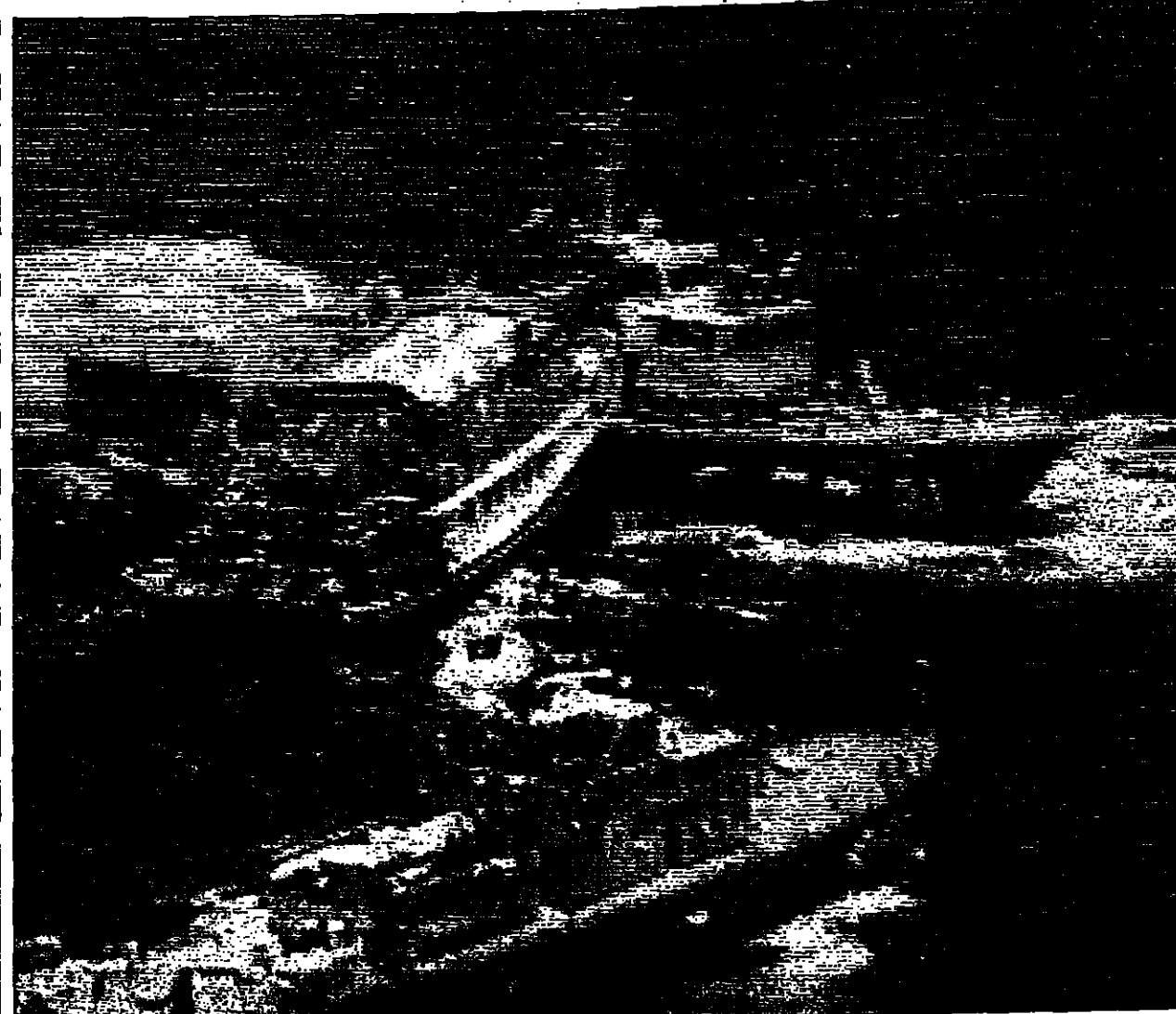
The number of forces entering Mazar-i-Sharif yesterday in trucks and pick-ups, laden with weaponry, left no doubt about who intends to be the dominant partner. There is no structure between them to define their respective roles, and a power struggle could erupt.

Pakistan sent its new Ambassador to Afghanistan, Aziz Khan, to Mazar-i-Sharif for talks yesterday, a day after announcing it was recognis-

ing Taleban as a government. Supporting Taleban is a high-risk strategy. There are many in the organisation who would like to reignite the dream of forming a region called Pashtunistan by seizing much of the North-West Frontier Province in Pakistan, parts of which used to belong to Afghanistan until the border was shifted during the British Raj.

There was heavy fighting yesterday on the Salang Highway, which links the north and south, between Taleban and forces of Ahmed Shah Massoud, the Tajik warlord who is now the only significant military opponent of the Islamic army. He is trying to stop Taleban forces moving heavy equipment north. Moscow issued a warning yesterday that any flood of Afghan refugees to Tajikistan, which has tens of thousands of its own population displaced, threatened to bring the conflict with them.

In Kabul, Care International last night suspended a programme for widows after Taleban police beat five of its Afghan women employees.



A protest vessel, Diao Yu Tai, collides with a Japanese patrol boat near the disputed Senkaku islands yesterday

Japanese island patrol repulses Chinese armada

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

SCORES of Japanese patrol vessels yesterday repulsed an armada of Chinese nationalistic fishing boats, repelling Tokyo's claim to the Senkaku islands in the East China Sea.

Taiwanese and Hong Kong protesters on 30 fishing boats were forced to abandon an attempt to pierce a Japanese security cordon around the outcrops, known in Chinese as the Diaoyu and claimed by China and Taiwan.

Two Hong Kong activists who jumped aboard a Japanese coastguard vessel, which collided with their boat, were left behind when the vessel returned home. A Japanese government spokesman said the two men would be briefly detained until they could be returned to Hong Kong.

In its biggest show of force, the Maritime Safety Agency Japan's coastguard, mobilised more than 60 patrol boats, some armed with cannons, to protect the zone of 12 nautical miles around the archipelago.

The Japanese Defence Ministry had earlier ruled out using the navy to prevent an intrusion. But the massive coastguard deployment signalled a determination to assert Japanese sovereignty that contrasted with Tokyo's ineffective reaction to similar Chi-

nese seaborne protests last year. Japan vowed yesterday to take all necessary steps to block intruders.

"We must not let them into our territorial waters," Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, said.

Ownership of the Senkakus, surrounded by rich fishing grounds and are believed to sit above oil and natural gas deposits, has been a point of contention for decades.

The dispute over sovereignty grew more heated after a Japanese right-wing group placed makeshift lightposts on the islands last July.

A Hong Kong protester drowned last September when he jumped from a boat into rough seas during a frustrated attempt to land on the islands to press China's claim. Last October, a protest group managed to set foot on one of the islets, planting the national flag of China and Taiwan.

Yesterday's protest was triggered by a visit to the Senkakus this month by a Japanese conservative politician, Shingo Nishimura, who hoisted the national flag to assert Tokyo's sovereignty. His action outraged Chinese nationalists and rekindled anti-Japanese sentiment in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

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MEDICAL BRIEFING

Monkeypox raises vaccine worries

AN OUTBREAK of monkeypox in Zaire could force the World Health Organisation to rethink its policy on smallpox, which was declared to have been eradicated in 1979, and abandon plans to destroy the last of the vaccine.

The plight of thousands of refugees dying from hunger in the Zairean civil war has eclipsed any impact the deaths of six people from monkeypox might have made. The Zaire outbreak, with more than 70 cases, was the largest recorded and has prompted the *BMJ*, the medical journal, to suggest that, if more outbreaks occur, it may be necessary to rethink the smallpox vaccination policy.

Smallpox, cowpox and monkeypox are closely related members within the pox virus family. The vaccines used against smallpox in various forms, only slightly changed since their development by Edward Jenner in the 18th century, also protect against monkeypox.

Monkeypox is a severe disease with the generalised symptoms and pustular sores which resemble those of smallpox. But in monkeypox the lymph glands swell a day or two before the rash appears. Rather more than one in ten of the patients who catch monkeypox die. There have been previous small outbreaks of monkeypox infections in humans. These have always been in Central Africa and two-thirds of all cases have been recorded in Zaire.

Any outbreak has always petered out before the fourth generation of human-to-human transmission has occurred.

As in the recent Zaire outbreak, all the diagnosed patients seem to have caught the virus from other people rather than an animal source.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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250,000 bikers pay homage to fallen US soldiers

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

MORE than 250,000 motorcyclists, many of them Vietnam veterans, descended on Washington for what has now become a tradition of America's Memorial Day weekend.

The tenth annual bikers' parade to commemorate fallen soldiers and those still listed as missing-in-action in Vietnam brought traffic to a standstill in the heart of the American capital as the stream of silver machines threaded its way through the streets.

Rolling Thunder, named after a B52 bombing campaign in Vietnam, began in 1987 as a means of bringing attention to the more than 2,000 United States soldiers who remain unaccounted for in the South-East Asian conflict.

It has since grown dramati-

cally and dwarfs other memorial celebrations in Washington to honour the dead in Vietnam and America's other wars. The bikers' simple mantra is that they ride for "those who can't" — the thousands who have given their lives in war.

With Memorial Day fast becoming just another holiday, marked by trips to the beach or the Indianapolis 500 motor race, the menacing roars of the thousands of motorcycles, adorned with the Stars and Stripes and POW flags, has become as poignant for many Americans as the laying of wreaths at the Cenotaph.

The veterans, wearing patches showing where they served, joined other riders in dismounting for a minute's silence opposite the Vietnam



Motorcyclists taking part in Rolling Thunder, the tenth annual rally to commemorate US servicemen killed in war, ride across Memorial Bridge in Washington yesterday

Veterans' Memorial, the black granite wall carrying the names of 50,000 killed or missing.

"It's an emotional kind of thing really to see people cry as you go by," said Steven Shaeffer, who had ridden to

Washington from Cape Cod, Massachusetts. "You ride by and grasp an outstretched hand and let go but sometimes they just want to hold on," he said.

As President Clinton yesterday laid a wreath at the Tomb

of the Unknowns in nearby Arlington Cemetery, the National Park Service held an observance at the wall, dedicated to six American soldiers and a Marine, whose deaths were the direct result of combat and whose names have

been newly engraved on the memorial. □ Robert McNamara, the US Defence Secretary during the Vietnam War, will meet officials in Hanoi next month to examine possible lessons from the conflict. Mr McNamara,

who resigned from the US Cabinet over Vietnam in 1968, sparked widespread controversy with his memoirs two years ago in which he detailed mistakes made by the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations that, he said, had led to

an unwinnable war for the United States.

He will lead a delegation of 54 researchers and historians who are attending a conference entitled Missed Opportunities in the Vietnamese capital.



A scene from *The Lost World*, an orgy of carnivorous mayhem, which attracted record cinema crowds during the Memorial Day weekend across America

Voracious dinosaurs deliver \$89m weekend for Spielberg

BY GILES WHITTELL

HELPED by giant models of carnivorous reptiles and an avalanche of free publicity, Steven Spielberg has thundered back to the top of the American box office after a three-year break from filmmaking. *The Lost World*, his sequel to *Jurassic Park*, earned an estimated \$89 million (\$55 million) on its opening weekend and is already prompting forecasts of more than \$1 billion in profits.

Special effects eclipse any semblance of plot in this orgy of dinosaur mayhem, but

records fell like ninepins as Americans flocked to it in droves over the long Memorial Day weekend. The film, in which Jeff Goldblum plays a wry paleontologist forced to rescue his girlfriend from a dinosaur-infested island in the Pacific, was released on Friday on an unprecedented 3,281 screens, and broke the \$20 million record set by *Batman Forever* in 1995 for ticket sales on an opening day. *The Lost World* grossed \$22 million.

By last night it had passed the \$85 million mark set last year by *Independence Day* for

a long weekend, and it earned back its entire \$75 million budget with at least \$14 million to spare. Today *The Lost World* is expected to become the fastest film in history to pass the \$100 million mark.

Ecologists picked Los Angeles cinemas because Dreamworks SKG, Mr Spielberg's new studio, plans to build its premises near the city's last natural wetlands. They were largely ignored. "They are complaining about frogs or something," one ten-year-old said in a ticket queue. "All I want to do is see the movie."

A stay of executions for 'Old Sparky'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

FLORIDA'S Supreme Court has temporarily suspended all executions with "Old Sparky", the state's venerable — and unreliable — electric chair.

Made 74 years ago, the chair is the oldest still in use anywhere in the world. It rocketed to notoriety in March when one condemned man, Pedro Medina, was effectively burnt alive. As the executioner pulled the lever, a high-voltage charge shot through Medina's body. Witnesses saw foot-long flames leap from his head and smoke gush from his mask. Although Medina's chest was seen to heave briefly after the fire, state medical experts ruled that he had felt no pain and had died instantly.

A month after the execution, a circuit judge in Duval County ruled that "Old Sparky" was not "cruel and unusual" — a form of words employed by human rights treaties to characterise impermissible punishment.

The state Supreme Court, however, has ordered a fresh investigation into the chair's fitness for use, stating that Medina's lawyer had not had a proper chance to put his case to the judge. The lawyer, Martin McLain, said yesterday: "I'm going to be able to present information that I wasn't able to present the last time, and to show that Pedro Medina suffered pain when he was executed."

Bob's Boys train their gunsights on Mexican border runners

MOST nights on his way home from work, Bob Maupin has shouldered a .45 semi-automatic rifle and a pair of Russian night-vision binoculars, then set off on foot to patrol his property.

Since the southern edge of his ranch is one of the busiest illegal crossing points on the US-Mexican border, he has also taken a pocketful of nylon handcuffs.

Plagued by a thirtyfold increase in the number of illegal immigrants streaming across his land, Mr Maupin and neighbouring ranchers in the rugged mountains east of San Diego have taken the law into their own hands.

Operating as armed vigilantes known to officials as "Bob's Boys", they have mounted an effective and so far bloodless campaign of citizens' arrests, sometimes rounding up 40 "illegals" in a single night.

The US Border Patrol endorses the group's activities. The result is peculiar, if not unprecedented: a superpower guarding stretches of its southern frontier with civilian gun enthusiasts outfitted at army surplus shops. "It's really a game," Mr Maupin said. "How long we stay out at

Landowners, gripped by a siege mentality, are hot on the trail of illegal immigrants who stream across their ranches nightly, reports Giles Whittell in Campo, California

night depends on how much fun we're having. When they're running in groups of anywhere from 20 to 100 through here, night after night, it gets to be a lot of fun."

Mr Maupin spoke with more than a hint of sarcasm. Photographs at the local Border Patrol office confirm that in 1985 he and his daughter, Denise, were arrested by Mexican army officers on their own land.

Their claim that the officers were protecting a drug laboratory near the border was not proven, but Denise, who favours a .40 Glock handgun, has since heeded the Border Patrol's advice not to leave the house unarmed.

The siege mentality gripping landowners in this harshly beautiful borderland is a symptom of high-level politics. In 1994, President Clinton signalled a tough stance on illegal immigration

— even as he hailed a new era of US-Mexican co-operation with the North American Free Trade Agreement — and ordered a border crackdown south of San Diego code-named Operation Gatekeeper. Helped by helicopters and infra-red night sights, the clampdown near the coast has been a moderate success. Inland, however, a trickle of illegal immigrants has turned into a flood. "Operation Gate-



keeper is a fraud," said Mr Maupin, 57. "It just pushes the Mexicans out here where they can't get caught."

In fact, 78,000 immigrants were arrested last year in Campo, up from 2,300 in 1994. Every night along Route 94, which hugs the border, Border Patrol agents crouch in wait for groups of migrant workers struggling north through the sagebrush with professional smugglers, or "coyotes", as guides. A fleet of minibuses shuttles prisoners to an overnight jail for "processing" and repatriation the next day.

Mr Maupin and his friends began making their own arrests two years ago, using Vietnam-era seismic sensors to locate intruders. Language has not been a problem, he said: "My dog speaks perfect Spanish."

Bob's Boys have suffered no casualties, but the northward flow of refugees from Mexico's economic crisis has its toll. Seventeen men, women and children froze to death in deep snow near Campo last winter. Since then, trespassing has fallen markedly. It is a victory of sorts for Mr Maupin, who quips, Mark Twain-style: "If I die today, I win."

Skydiver leaps to safety from crash plane

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

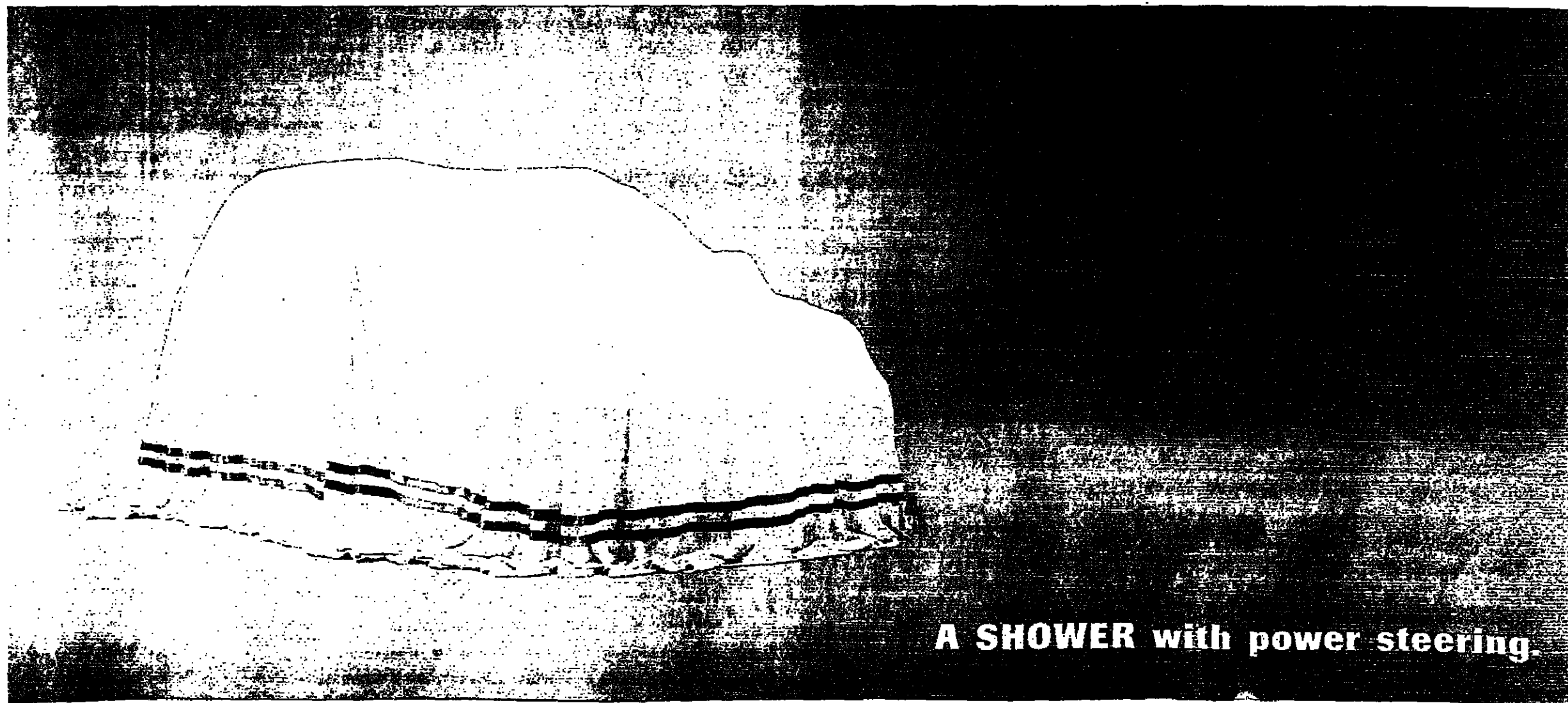
A SKYDIVER floated safely to the ground as her single-engine plane spiralled out of control and nosedived into a sweet potato field in Florida, killing the pilot and five other parachutists.

order to jump, Carol O'Connell apparently felt the Cessna about to stall and, left with no choice but to leap, then watched in horror from below her canopy as the plane carrying her six colleagues went into a fatal spin and crashed.

She landed in shock some 80ft from the debris. "I'm very grateful to be alive," said Ms O'Connell, 43, a skydiving student

who had made 22 previous jumps. "I can't explain why I'm still alive while these other people have left behind so many loved ones. I guess when it's your time to go, you go. It wasn't my time."

The National Transportation Safety Board was investigating yesterday whether the single-engine Cessna 210 was overloaded or had stalled during a turn.



A SHOWER with power steering.

12 FRENCH ELECTIONS

Left's first-round triumph transforms lacklustre election into contest that either side could win

Centre-Right fights for votes as Juppé bows out

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S ruling centre-right coalition launched a frantic hunt for votes yesterday as Alain Juppé announced he would stand down as Prime Minister after the stunning rebuff administered to his Government in the first round of France's parliamentary elections.

French stocks plunged and the franc wobbled amid fears that the Gaullist President Chirac may still be forced to share power with a Socialist-led Government, possibly undermining France's drive to join a single European currency.

With the Left now clearly ahead M Chirac is battling to retain his credibility, and a lacklustre election widely seen as a foregone conclusion has been transformed overnight into a frenetic contest that either side could still win.

Final results from Sunday's poll gave the combined Left 42.1 per cent of the vote and 36.16 per cent to the centre-right coalition. But the high level of abstentions and the widely-dispersed first-round vote among fringe candidates mean that the race will be won and lost in the next five days.

The role of the far-right National Front, which polled an increased 15 per cent, is another crucially important, but unpredictable, factor in the race.

M Chirac held consultations yesterday with senior political allies in what aides said was a "calm, studious and thoughtful" manner, but the mood within the ruling coalition was anything but calm as the Gaullist RPR and centre-right UDF parties contemplated their worst combined first-round poll result for 30 years.

The President is expected to make another personal appeal for support later this week. Ousting M Juppé at this stage would have smacked of desperation. Instead, M Juppé was either forced or agreed to bow out after the next ballot.

Even before M Juppé's announcement yesterday, Philippe Séguin, the Gaullist parliamentary Speaker tipped as a replacement Prime Minister,

nudged his hat further into the ring by hinting that the time was fast approaching for a change of premier.

"You don't change campaign leaders in the middle of the watch, but since one of the best hypotheses is that the Centre-Right could win a majority of a few seats, the issues at stake are different from those when you have a 100-seat advantage," M Séguin said.

Even Raymond Barre, the former Prime Minister and hitherto staunch supporter of

M Juppé, called for a "profound change of leaders if the majority wins".

Most of the key figures in the Centre-Right failed to attract the 50 per cent of the vote needed for an outright win, including Jacques Toubon, the Justice Minister, Jean Tiberi, the scandal-plagued Mayor of Paris, and M Juppé himself. For the first time in his life, former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing faces a second-round fight to retain his seat.

The Centre-Right still has some powerful weapons in its

armoury, most notably the glaring policy divisions within the Socialist-Communist alliance and the threat that "cohabitation" will weaken France and scupper the single European currency project.

Over the next few days the rattled Centre-Right will hammer away at those themes, pointing out that the Communists are opposed to economic and monetary union (EMU) while the Socialists, led by Lionel Jospin, maintain they are broadly in favour. The Government will also seek to capitalise on mounting doubts over whether France will be able to meet the Maastricht criteria for deficit reduction under a Socialist-led government that has ruled out further spending cuts.

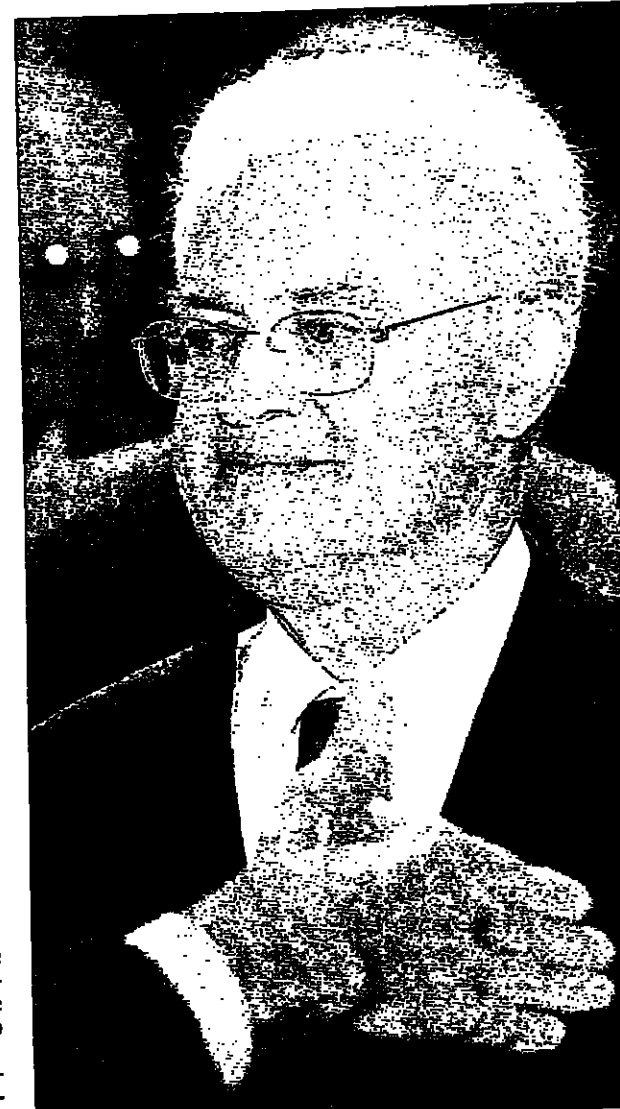
M Chirac's decision to call a snap election ten months early is already being seen as a gamble that has failed badly, but in one sense his hunch was only too accurate.

To judge from the first poll, if the Government had waited until after yet another round of harsh austerity measures needed to ensure France joins EMU on time before calling an election, its chances of retaining a majority would have been minute.

Next Sunday may yet see an embarrassing defeat for the President, but had he waited until next March the result would probably have been an election rout so crushing that M Chirac would have been left contemplating not cohabitation, but resignation.

Paris rout: The ruling Centre-Right faces a possible rout in Paris, one of its traditional strongholds, where ten of its 19 deputies will be challenged fiercely in next Sunday's parliamentary election run-off. The looming left-wing breakthrough follows a similar development in the June 1995 mayoral elections, when Socialists won five of the capital's 20 municipal districts and ended a longtime Gaullist lock on the city government.

The Centre-Right held 19 of 22 districts in the outgoing assembly. (Reuters)



Lionel Jospin, whose Socialist-led grouping has delivered a stunning rebuff to the government

Leading article, page 19



Alain Juppé and wife Isabelle stroll in a Bordeaux park. The Prime Minister is to bow out after the next ballot

Le Pen emerges as king-breaker

BY BEN MACINTYRE

THE leader of France's far-right National Front, Jean-Marie Le Pen, has emerged as the decisive kingmaker, or more aptly king-breaker, in the French parliamentary elections.

Buoyed by a record-breaking 15 per cent of the vote in the first round, National Front candidates have qualified for second round run-offs in a remarkable 133 of France's 577 constituencies. More than half of these will be three-way races where the right-wing vote will probably be split, helping candidates on the Left. The overall result, however, may hinge on how National Front supporters vote in the other 444 seats.

M Le Pen and his cohorts began meetings yesterday to decide which (if any) of the mainstream parties National Front supporters should be encouraged to vote for in those constituencies without a far-right candidate. Although the

National Front is unlikely to win more than three seats in parliament and may gain none at all, the party's best ever result in a parliamentary election has left the extreme-nationalists in a key position to sway the final outcome.

M Le Pen has made no effort to hide his loathing for Jacques Chirac. He has called for the President's resignation after Sunday's vote, but many National Front supporters may instinctively reject the Centre-Right in the next round, whatever M Le Pen's instructions.

In the course of the campaign M Le Pen pronounced that a left-wing government cohabiting with a right-wing President would be the best outcome, since this would be most likely to scupper M Chirac's plans for joining European economic and monetary union. Those remarks were disavowed by some members of his party, and others are facing strong left-wing opposition. The National Front, which advocates

repatriating immigrants and giving priority in housing and healthcare to French-born citizens, made inroads in central France and the Paris suburbs but notched up its highest scores around its strongholds in the South and East.

Any overt attempt by the centre-right coalition to lure away National Front support is certain to prompt accusations of pandering to racist extremism, and could alienate more moderate voters while providing the Left with additional ammunition.

Bruno Mégret, the deputy leader of the National Front, who is running for parliament in Vitrolles, said that the party would probably "wait and see what the centre-right parties have to say" before deciding on the next stage of the election strategy. He added that the National Front might not make a blanket recommendation to its supporters. "We will say in some districts and not across the board," M Mégret said.

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THE TIMES

Free entry to a National Trust summer evening event

This week *The Times* offers you the chance to go to a National Trust evening concert or play, absolutely FREE. You can choose from classical music and jazz, plays by Shakespeare and Sheridan, and operas, including *Die Fledermaus* and *Madam Butterfly*. Most of the events are performed by candlelight, many end with a display of fireworks, and some are illuminated with lasers. To get your free ticket collect four different tokens from those printed in *The Times* this week. You can also use the token printed in *The Sunday Times* last Sunday. An application form appeared in yesterday's paper.

HOW TO APPLY

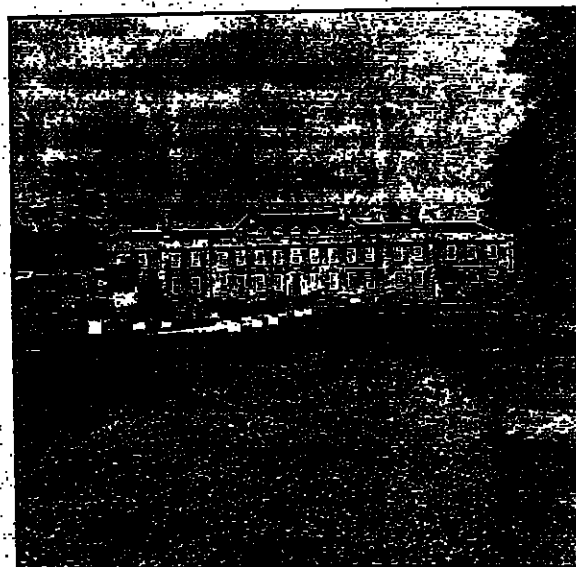
A selection of National Trust events appears right and more will appear this week. A full list of 31 events, with the addresses where you should send your tokens for your free ticket appeared on Saturday and in *The Sunday Times* last Sunday. Event entry times appear first followed by the time of the performance. You can buy additional tickets when you send for your free ticket. The price of children's tickets varies so call the inquiry number 0181 315 1111 on weekdays between 9am-5.30pm. Allow a minimum of nine days to receive your ticket. One application form and four different tokens per free ticket are required. No

photocopies of tokens are permitted. This offer is subject to availability and is not valid in conjunction with any other offer. Children are aged up to 16 years old.

THE TIMES



TOKEN 3



CHOOSE ONE OF THESE EVENTS

SUFFOLK
July 17 *Vivendi* and *Beck* by candlelight; July 18 *Last Night of the Proms* by candlelight, both at Ickworth, Horning, Bury St Edmunds. 6pm/8pm. Thurs, July 17, £16; Fri, July 18, £16.
WILTSHIRE
July 4 *Jazz in the Park* July 5 *Fifties, Sixties and Seventies*, Dyrham Park, nr Chippenham. Noon/7pm. £10.
July 24, 25, 26 *Fête Champêtre - Stourhead Goes Wild in the West* with fireworks, Stourhead Landscape Garden, Stourton, Warminster. 5.30pm/7.30pm. July 24, £14; July 25, £16; July 26, £18. DD. Aug 9 *Twelfth Night*, Stourhead, Stourton, Warminster. 8pm/7.30pm. £8.
Aug 23 *Peter Pan*, Lacock Abbey, Chippenham. 6pm/7pm. £8.
YORKSHIRE
July 24, 25, 26 *The Rivals* by Sheridan, Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal, Ripon HG4 3DY. 6.30pm/8pm. £8 from the National Trust Regional Box Office at the above address. Cheques payable to National Trust (Enterprises) Ltd.
WALES
July 10 *Vivendi* and *Beck* by candlelight, Eddig, nr Wrexham. 6pm/8pm. £16.
July 14 *Open-air*, Fabulous Fifties with lasers July 26 *Open-air*, operas *Madam Butterfly* and *Die Fledermaus*; Eddig, nr Wrexham. 7.15pm/9pm. £16. From above address. Cheques payable to National Trust (Enterprises) Ltd.
July 19 *Open-air* special *Die Fledermaus* by candlelight. 5.30pm/7.30pm. Aug 23 *Open-air* Jazz with Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen 6pm/7pm. Pwll Newydd, Llanfairpwll, Anglesey. LL61 5DQ. £10 each. £5 child. For both events from above address. Cheques payable to National Trust (Enterprises) Ltd.
Aug 1 *Royal Fireworks Music with fireworks*, Powis Castle, Welshpool, Powys. 6pm/5pm. £16.

CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

Yeltsin seeks Blair assurance over expansion of Nato

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN will seek Britain's support this morning in safeguarding Russia's security when he meets Tony Blair for breakfast before a key Nato summit in Paris.

The Kremlin leader, who arrived in France yesterday for today's signing of a Nato-Russian accord, wants assurances that the alliance will limit its expansion to former Warsaw Pact countries and not extend membership to former Soviet republics.

In an interview with the Tass news agency, published yesterday, Mr Yeltsin said that he was reconciled to Nato enlargement so long as Moscow's security was not threatened. The alliance is expected to offer membership to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic in July. Romania and Slovenia may also join.

Russia, which still opposes the move in principle, tempered its objections after agreement this month on the terms of the "Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Co-operation and Security between Nato and the Russian Federation". The document, to be signed today, calls for the establishment of a council at Nato headquarters where Russia will be consulted on

key aspects of alliance policy. Moscow has already won assurances that no foreign troops or nuclear weapons will be deployed permanently on new members' territories. "The negative impact of the expansion of Nato will be reduced to a minimum," Mr Yeltsin said. "This way we will not slip towards confrontation, which would inevitably involve big expenses for arms, a new militarisation of political thinking."

However, Russia was not granted the "veto" right it had wanted and Mr Yeltsin will make clear to the Prime Minister and other Western leaders today that Moscow will pull out of the agreement if Nato decides to extend membership to former Soviet republics. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have already signalled their intention to apply formally to join Nato, a region Moscow regards as its sphere of influence.

Of even greater concern to the Kremlin is the possibility that Ukraine might one day join the alliance, a move Russian nationalists would regard as an act of war.

"I hope that through an open dialogue we will be able to convince those [the three Baltic states] and other countries

that their security will not increase by bringing them closer to Nato," said Mr Yeltsin, who travels to Kiev later this week for a long-delayed visit to resolve several outstanding issues between the Slav neighbours.

Part of Russia's strategy in countering the expansion threat will be to play on differences among Nato members. Washington, which has pressed hardest for enlargement, is unlikely to back down. Mr Yeltsin has received a more sympathetic hearing from Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Chirac of France.

He is hoping that the change of government in Britain may alter London's outlook. Although the Labour administration, like its Conservative predecessor, is committed to Nato expansion, the Russians are aware of a groundswell of opposition against the policy from senior diplomats, leading commentators and military experts.

The Kremlin is expected to point out to the British side that the more it is excluded from European security decision-making, the greater the risk of a domestic political backlash against the reformers in Russia.



A couple carry their children to safety as floodwaters force them to leave their suburban home in Quezon City

Thousands take refuge from Philippines floods

Manila: Floods caused by torrential rain and heavy seas caused havoc yesterday in the Philippines, killing up to 29 people and forcing airports, businesses, schools and financial markets to close (Abby Tan writes). Seven people drowned when a pleasure boat capsized off the central island of Cebu and three men were killed by electric shock while wading in knee-

deep waters near Manila, the capital. Two others died in mudslides and two more drowned when falling into manholes. The northern island of Luzon was worst hit. Gregoriou Vigilar, a Cabinet Secretary, said that 45 per cent of Manila was under water, with floods reaching a height of 6ft in the northern suburb of Quezon City.

where families were forced to take refuge on rooftops. The military used lorries and rubber boats to help to rescue more than 3,000 families.

President Fidel Ramos cancelled appointments after floodwaters swamped roads to the presidential palace. The rain, caused by a tropical depression, is expected to last all week.

WORLD SUMMARY

Ministers held after army coup

Freetown: Troops searched houses in Sierra Leone's capital yesterday for former civilian government ministers, the day after armed forces led by Major Johnny Paul Koromah seized power. Military sources said that five former ministers were detained.

South Africa joined the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity in condemning the coup, which ended just over a year of civilian rule. Freetown's main hospital said that at least 15 had died in the fighting on Sunday, two of them Lebanese. (Reuters)

Rapist jailed

Los Angeles: An Air Force sergeant in Washington State was sentenced to 30 years for raping and assaulting three women, including one of his own rank (Giles Whittell writes). A court martial convicted Master Sergeant Napoleon Bailey, 39, of Fairchild Air Force Base, of 15 charges, including one of rape and two of forcible sodomy.

Mandela 'plot'

Harare: Two white South Africans have been arrested by Zimbabwean security authorities on suspicion of attempting to kill President Mandela and President Mugabe of Zimbabwe during the South African President's state visit last week, a senior police official said (Jan Raath writes).

Congo security

Kinshasa: Laurent Kabila's Government banned demonstrations in the Democratic Republic of Congo's capital, state television said. It added that none of Mr Kabila's armed forces would be able to circulate in the city without specific orders. (Reuters)

Out of hospital

Moscow: Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the Nobel prize-winning author, left hospital where he was treated for heart problems to recuperate at home, his wife Natalia said. The critic of the Kremlin was admitted on May 12. (AFP)

Bossi claims 'referendum' mandate for free Padania

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN GENOA

UMBERTO BOSSI, leader of the separatist Northern League, yesterday claimed an overwhelming "Yes" vote in the League's self-styled "referendum" on independence for northern Italy, which Signor Bossi has unilaterally dubbed "Padania".

"We have a mandate," Signor Bossi declared. "Padania is on its way."

Newspapers in the main northern cities dismissed the vote as an empty exercise. *Corriere della Sera*, published in Milan, derided the "referendum" as "a farce", while *Il Secolo* of Genoa pointed out that in reality it was "only an opinion poll with which has no legal force".

La Stampa of Turin said Signor Bossi's claim that 99.7 per cent of the sixmillion votes cast were in favour of secession and the creation of a "provisional Padanian government" was a "Bulgarian result".

Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, said the poll was "not serious". "Politics is not a

game," he said. President Scalfaro, visiting Palermo, the Sicilian capital, said limited regional autonomy of the kind enjoyed by Sicily was acceptable, but Italy had to remain "one and indivisible".

The League, which won 10 per cent of the vote in last year's general election, successfully played on north Italian resentment of high taxation by



Bossi: "Padania is on its way"

Rome and subsidies paid to support the poorer and less efficient south. But it has since lost ground badly in recent local elections, and staged the "referendum" to regain momentum.

La Repubblica pointed out that there had been no checks to ensure a fair ballot. It said most of the 22 million population of the 11 north Italian provinces, where the 13,000 "polling booths" were set up by League activists, had not voted at all. One reporter from *La Stampa* voted ten times — "five times for and five times against, to ensure I did not affect the result", as he told readers yesterday.

La Repubblica said although the Government had opted to tolerate rather than suppress the League's "increasingly provocative antics", Signor Bossi had succeeded in putting the language of secession on the agenda, with Italians using terms like Padania "as if they actually meant something, when in fact there is no such place".



Diver finds evidence of Philistines' lost port

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI archaeologists yesterday unveiled details of a treasure trove of antiquities recovered from the seabed off the Mediterranean city of Ashkelon which provides rare evidence of the ancient harbour there cited in historic writings, but never found.

Ashkelon was one of the five great Philistine cities, along with Ashdod, Gaza, Gath and Ekron and continued to have a fascinating maritime history up until the period of the Crusaders when it gave its name to "shalloots" and "scallions" as a result of its flourishing onion export trade. The city was partially destroyed by Saladin in the 12th century and levelled by the Mameluke sultan Baybars in 1270, leaving only hints of its former glory.

The new discoveries range from a mysterious statue of a monkey with two hands covering its mouth to a shipment of 3,500kg of lead. They are among a wide variety of finds from ten sunken boats recently found off the coast. The Israel Antiquities Authority said the cargoes varied from the Late Bronze Age, some 3,200 years ago, up until the medieval period.

Ashkelon became an important staging point on the great trade route linking Egypt and Mesopotamia, the "Way of the Sea", which continued north through Apehek, Medidde and Hazor. Today it is a sprawling city famous for its national park and attractive beaches.

The new underwater finds were uncovered by chance by shifting sands caused by the construction of the new marina. They were first noted by Yossi Ayalon, a local diver from the nearby fishing village of Dugit, and reported to the authority.

Marine archaeologists believe that Ashkelon, which once flourished under both Greek and Roman rule and was reputedly the birthplace of Herod the Great, did not have an artificial harbour like Caesarea — further north up the coast beyond present day Tel Aviv — but that seagoing vessels offloaded on to skiffs away from the shore.

The *Jerusalem Post* reported yesterday that the Antiquities Authority will open an underwater archaeology museum off Haifa. It will display ancient anchors, stone objects from prehistoric villages, and artefacts found during work on Carmel beach.

Danes challenge EU terms

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

THE Danish High Court embarked yesterday on a three-week hearing of a lawsuit brought by a group of ten Danes challenging the constitutional legality of Denmark's membership of the European Union.

The non-partisan group, calling itself the Constitution Committee, alleged that since joining the European Union in 1973 along with Britain and Ireland, Denmark has ceded national authority to Brussels in breach of its own constitution.

The court hearing proper has been delayed by complex legal manoeuvring as the

group sought to have confidential government papers, dating back to Denmark's entry into the EU, introduced as evidence.

Article 20 of the Danish constitution states that national powers may only be delegated to international organisations "within a specified limit" and the group argues that Denmark's EU treaties do not sufficiently define the extent to which the European Court and other EU institutions may override national bodies.

The Social Democrat-led centre-left Government believes its case is watertight and

lawyers from both sides admit that the state attorney's task has been eased by rulings in recent months that the case should be limited to events since the Maastricht treaty of 1992. The Government insists that Denmark's accession to the Maastricht treaty is in accordance with the constitution and independent legal experts generally see a government win as the most likely outcome.

The Government wants a quick decision as the case casts a shadow over Danish ratification of a revised Maastricht treaty to be hammered out in Amsterdam next month.

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Focusing on the Public Sector

ZURICH MUNICIPAL

'America's children are petulant, whining brats'

US childcare gurus say parents must get tough on bad behaviour. Report by Susan Ellicott

Mommies and Daddies across America are in a state of shock. As little Todd throws his umpteenth tantrum and Martha runs riot in the mall, their exhausted parents are realising that in the US, the liberal approach to child-rearing has failed.

Parents come to me complaining that their children are running their lives," says John Rosemond, a family psychologist. "They describe their children as if they are assaulting them 24 hours a day."

And no wonder. For a generation, the American chattering classes have been in the thrall of "positive reinforcement", an untidy euphemism that meant punishment was a thing of the past. Discipline was a dirty word. And smacking, or "spanking", became even more politically incorrect than smoking.

If a pre-school child misbehaved, the aspiring ideal par-

ents were to take a deep breath and discuss the child's feelings with him or her. ("Why do you think you did that? Wouldn't it be better if you did this?"). Under no circumstances were they to ignore him, shout or send him to his room, which, according to popular thought, could cause emotional scars.

Once, an acquaintance's two-and-a-half-year-old bit me during supper at their house - and refused to apologise. Rather than do so, he bit me again. Dad stepped in. "Sheldon," he cooed, "let's go to the kitchen."

I expected the child to be sent to his room. But no. Dad launched into a quasi-Socratic dialogue with him about whether he should get a "time-out", the US version of being sent off the football pitch to cool down. The image of the father towering over his toddler and trying to negotiate rationally has remained with me for years as a sure sign that America's middle-class par-



For a decade, middle-class Americans have favoured discussion rather than punishment for bad behaviour but the approach seems to have backfired

and now makes his living, 250 days a year, on the road, hosting parenting seminars. Then he heads for the Bahamas and writes related books.

Parents have become "amateur psychologists" rather than figures of authority," says William Sears, a father of eight children aged from five to 30.

He and his wife, Martha, a nurse, are authors of *The Discipline Book* (published here under the title *Little Angels*), which exhorts parents to spend time with their children to build a secure bond. The Sears are anti-smacking, yet there are signs that the smack is about to get a second chance.

Last autumn, a respected University of California study concluded that a light smack, if given within a loving relationship, could help shape

"socially constructive behaviour" in children aged between 18 months and six years. And the American Academy of Paediatricians is revising its blanket disapproval of physical punishment. So wary is the study's author, Dr Diana Baumrind, of raising her critics' hackles that she usually refuses to be quoted in the media unless verbatim from her academic work. She compares the public emotions swirling around smacking to those in the abortion debate. She says of her study: "It's certainly not pro-spanking. It's really more pro-choice."

Members of the American Academy of Paediatricians are so divided about smacking - doctors might recommend it,

but sociologists link even moderate smacking with spouse and child abuse - that the negotiations on their exact wording are shrouded in secrecy. Their eagerly awaited statement is due to appear later this year.

Meanwhile, the US media is becoming obsessed with child discipline and modern parenting styles. In recent weeks, magazines have been filled with gloom. High-flying professionals are waking up on Saturday mornings and finding that their children, many of whom have spent most of the week with a nanny, are out of control.

"Our children are angry and they have a right to be," says Ronald Levant, a psychol-

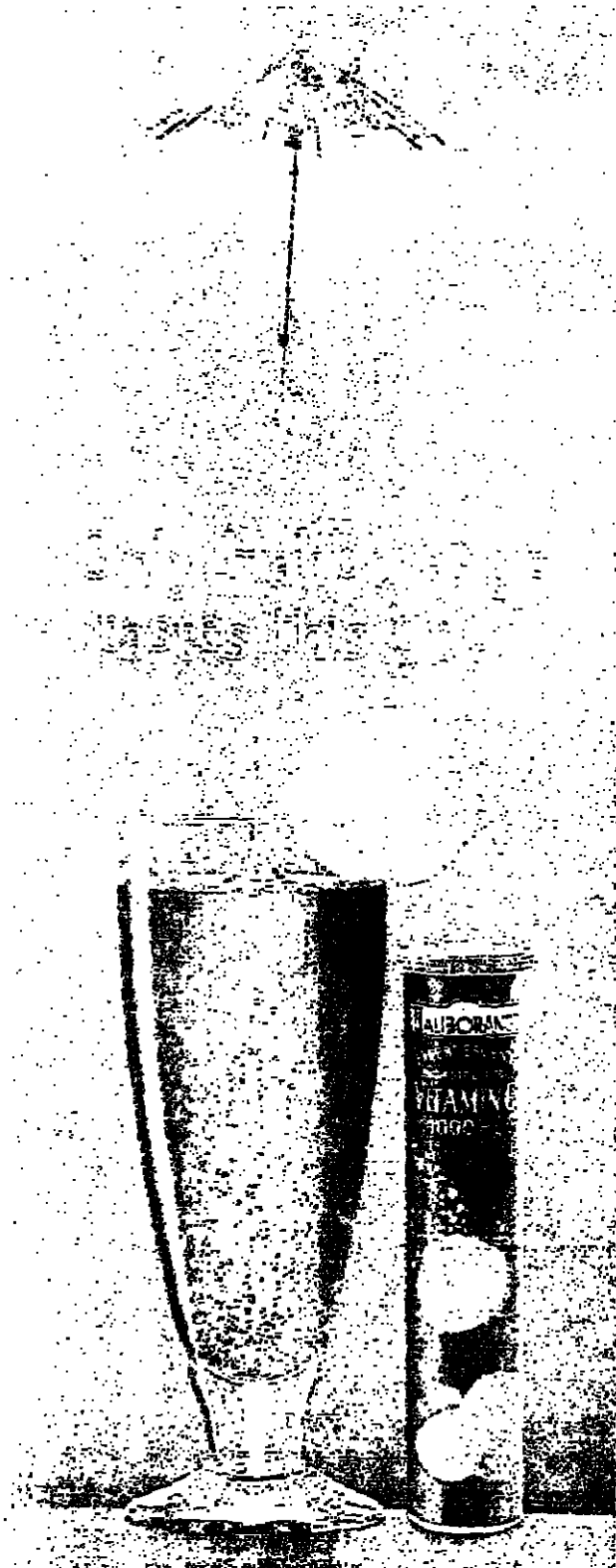
ogist at Harvard Medical School. "They're exposed. Parents are not around and the children's peers and mass media fill the void."

Fears about America's collective escapism into work are mounting, fuelled by an average 50-hour week and a provocative new book by Princeton sociologist Arlie Hochschild, *The Time Bind*, which concludes that for many Americans, the workplace has become the emotional sanctuary from the stress and turmoil of home, rather than vice versa. And it is the children who suffer.

One study recently estimated that teenagers spend an average of five minutes a day one-to-one with their fathers. With so little time, many parents look for a quick-fix solution to their discipline woes. A friend in Des Moines recently met a child behaviourist who claims to

cure children of Attention Deficit Disorder in ten minutes. "The biggest problem today with discipline is that people are clinging to techniques," says Ronald Levant. "We're kidding ourselves. There are no short cuts. Children need a lot more of our time than we are giving them."

Yet it has taken until now for American society to admit as much. Why? Because it has been politically incorrect to suggest that parents spend more time with their children, lest such a statement be seen as a criticism of working mothers. Today, it's both hip and palatable to propose that mothers and fathers should pitch in more. Americans have learnt that you can combine a career with children, maybe even a great career with children. But lesson number two is tougher: maybe you can't combine a great career with great children.



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HALIBORANGE

Why lawyers are turning to drink

Work and social pressures leave many lawyers with an alcohol problem. Anjana Ahuja reports on where they can find help

In the pyramid of middle-class professionals, lawyers come pretty near the apex. Highly educated, confident, articulate and affluent, they epitomise success.

Yet many practitioners of justice harbour a dark secret. According to estimates in America, almost one in five people in the legal profession has an alcohol or drug problem. There is no such estimate for Britain, but there is little reason to think they would be much different.

Which is why the Law Society has launched SolCare, an independent charitable organisation, to look after its members' health. SolCare has established an informal link with Alcoholics Anonymous, made contact with treatment centres and will refer people to the Lawyers Support Group, an informal network of legal employees with drink and drug problems. It will also help those suffering from depression and stress.

The burdens of legal life are well-known - long hours, pressure to socialise and heavy caseloads. "I think the stress of practising tends to lead to more problems for lawyers than many other professions," says Charles Elly, a former president of the Law Society who did much during his tenure to bring the issue of alcoholism into the open.

In the two weeks since SolCare's formal inception, 18 people - 12 men and six women - have turned to the charity. Fifteen have a drink problem, one has a drug problem and the remaining two have complained of stress. Barry Pritchard, a former lawyer who runs SolCare, and who was himself an alcoholic, knows that for every person who steps forward, many more remain silent.

financial pressures began to pile up during the recession. Her teenage son left home and her daughter, then eight, was taken into care.

"During the Eighties there was a lot of social drinking. There was lots of work and parties given by estate agents or building societies. Drinking was part and parcel of the job."

I set up a practice on my own. By the late Eighties, though, the scene had changed. The functions had disappeared. Professionally, others had stopped drinking, but I carried on. I was beginning to drink more on my own. I always had gin, whisky and wine, and would start drinking as soon as I got home.

"By 1992, it was bad. I would close the office up at 6pm, and then pull out bottles of vodka. I switched to vodka from gin because I thought it would be harder for people to tell I had been drinking - a common delusion among alcoholics. Within a year, I was drinking all the time. I must have been getting through a bottle of vodka a day, then I would visit the off-licence on the way home."

"Several other things happened at the time. The work was beginning to fall off, the premises I was renting were expensive, and my father died in 1993. That's when I went downhill very rapidly."

"Well-meaning friends contacted social services about my daughter. They thought this would bring me to my senses, but I was in denial."

"By this time, I knew I had to do something drastic about the business. I wanted to close it, but couldn't afford to because of the overheads. Yet I couldn't afford to keep it open. It seemed like a vicious circle. I didn't want to approach the Law Society



In only two weeks, 18 lawyers have turned to SolCare

because I was afraid of what they might do. So, in the autumn of 1994, I took client funds and paid off £36,000 of overheads.

"With the help of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Lawyers Support Group, I had my last drink in January 1995. I got my daughter back after eight months. I knew the Law Society would eventually catch up with me, so I went to them. I was struck off for misusing client funds."

"My lifestyle now couldn't be more different. We live on income support in a negative equity house. Income support pays some mortgage interest, but not all. I do some voluntary work and have gone back to college just to keep me occupied. But I am enjoying being a full-time mum."

"Professionally, I regret what happened. If I had gone to the Law Society two years earlier things may not have needed to get as bad."

Barry Pritchard, 61, runs SolCare from his home in Porthmadog, Gwynedd. He

has two children from his first marriage and is remarried with a stepson.

"I was a senior partner in a law firm in Redditch. At 34, I decided to set up on my own in Bournemouth. That's when things took a nosedive. Basically, the way you do business is to entertain or be entertained. So liquid lunches became the norm."

"I also joined Round Table, which meant drinking in the evenings. By this time I had switched to Carlsberg Special, an extra strong beer, whisky and vodka. Two years later, I was polishing off a bottle of vodka a day."

"I merged with another practice and a partner moved in. He made the bottom drawer of his filing cabinet a drinks cabinet so he could offer clients a G&T rather than the standard cup of coffee. I thought this was a brilliant idea, and kicked myself for not thinking of it earlier. He would be easier and cheaper to buy the spirits myself. I still had no inkling that what I was doing was unusual. Then my partner asked me to resign. He said my drinking had become unacceptable. I must have been up to about a bottle and a half of spirits a day."

"I resigned, moved to Poole, and opened another practice. The first thing I did was to install a drinks cabinet. I was

immediately back on the entertainment treadmill. I kept calling into clubs and pubs, persuading myself I was picking up business. It was true, but it also gave me an excuse to drink."

"One day, I turned up in the office plastered and my secretary suggested I went to AA. So I did. But I couldn't identify with the other people there. They had lost their family, lost their job, crashed the car and lost their driving licence. I hadn't. In fact, that is exactly what happened to me over the next three years because my whole life centred on alcohol."

After I crashed the car, my doctor got me into a treatment centre for three months, but when I came out I started drinking again. I devised a rota for visiting off-licences so the shopkeepers wouldn't guess I was alcoholic."

"The turning point came when I met and married Margaret, a former client. Initially, she turned a blind eye. But after two years, she gave me an ultimatum. I decided there and then to quit. I remember the evening vividly - it was July 4, 1992. Within half an hour, somebody from AA was sitting in the living room. I haven't had a drop since. Soon afterwards, I got involved with the Lawyers Support Group, which allowed me to talk through the professional side of my problems without compromising my confidentiality."

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The dynasty of the living dead



The Royal House of Oudh once ruled 5m people. Christopher Thomas on the family's final humiliation

Deep in the Delhi woods, five howling great dories strain at chains anchoring them to a derelict 13th-century monument — windowless, doorless, waterless and foul — where their master and mistress, impoverished hermits both, carry the Royal House of Oudh through its death throes.

Deeds strange and macabre have gone on here, hidden from Delhi's eyes. Princess Rajkumari Sakina Mahal lives with her brother, Prince Rajkumar Cyrus Riza, in conditions that are beyond poverty. It is a deathly place, filled with a constantly articulated desire by the princess and prince finally to end the humiliation of the great House of Oudh. The many palaces and legions of servants are long gone, and the remaining two royals are reduced to squalor made more stark by an attachment to a few threadbare Persian carpets and some slivers of diamonds, the last of anything worthwhile.

Tell the world what has been done to us

The couple, shut away from the world, would set the dogs on anybody coming unannounced. A sign warns that intruders will be gunned down. They address each other with a royal formality, the last dignity left to them.

They reject an India they despise for bringing them to this. The princess, thin and filthy in tattered shirt and trousers, has not touched her greasy comb — hair with a brush or comb in more than three years, and intends never to do so again. Nor has she stepped outside into the sun in that time because she has entered a lifetime of withdrawal and mourning for her late mother. She is 37.

Her story is told through bouts of crying. "Tell the world what has been done to us," she says. It is the first time she has spoken of the events that have brought the House of Oudh to its final degradation in the woods, in a leaking monument shared with pigeons that defecate upon everything, where there is no electricity and only one servant, liveried in a fraying black uniform, playing his part in the final stages of a royal tragedy. He stands to attention, sometimes swishing his arms at the birds flying in and out, ignoring the mice and chipmunks scamper-

ing about his feet. At night, bats fly through the gloom of oil lamps, depositing their pungent droppings. It is a dreadful theatre.

At 2.40pm on October 12, 1993, Princess Wilayat Mahal Oudh died, aged 62. She was the couple's mother and she took her own life — "do not use the word *s-u-i-c-i-d-e*, it is too common," I was instructed — by crushing her diamond necklace and bracelet and swallowing them.

"It was a quick death," her daughter says, showing the stone writing table where her highness, as her children always called her, was found dead. "This drink of fire tears up all the inner organs." Her death ended a long, lost fight for justice, although her battle had an eccentric nobility, conducted as it was for ten years at New Delhi railway station.

With 13 large dogs, seven servants and two of her children, the begum, who traced her aristocracy to ancient Islamic Persian kings, occupied a small portico off what had been the viceroy's waiting room. From there she petitioned for the return of at least two of the palaces of Oudh, a former princely state in the northern Hindi heartland, in what is now Uttar Pradesh. Five million people were ruled from the capital, Lucknow. Her highness conducted her vigil with a Shiite sense of sacrifice, seated upon antique carpets, erect and regal. Her children never called her "mother" — that would have been presumptuous — and she addressed them with equal formality.

Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, sympathised with the family's plight and gave them a small place in Srinagar, capital of the Kashmir Valley, but in 1971 it burnt to the ground, destroying many antiques and ensuring ultimate poverty. The family insisted that it was an act of arson by enemies in the Government, and moved to New Delhi station to begin their dignified protest. For three years they lived on the platform, their valuables stuffed in suitcases, before occupying the waiting room. To get them out peacefully the Indian Government in 1985 allocated the monument in the woods, Malcha Mahal. A plinth outside the building proclaims in unintended mockery: "Rulers of Oudh."



The Royal House of Oudh: Princess Rajkumari Sakina Mahal (left) and her brother, Prince Rajkumar Cyrus Riza, with their late mother, Princess Wilayat Mahal Oudh

Her highness was awarded an official allowance of 500 rupees (about £9) a month by the Government, probably a calculated insult. Princess Sakina, sitting erect and formal on a stone bed, shows the only remaining mementoes of her mother: a shawl, a pair of black gloves, some dress shoes. "Everything else has gone, everything."

Her son began embalming her while simultaneously preparing a vault for her body in the woods. He waited for the corpse to dehydrate before the final embalming, which he hoped would enable her to "remain with me for the rest of my life". For ten days he and his sister slept with the body on a stone bed, one on either side. "This is our story," the princess says. "It has never been told before. The world must know."

By their own admission the embalming was not expertly done; it was performed, according to the prince, using secret methods and ingredients passed down from the time of the Pharaohs and did not involve the removal of organs. Her highness's remaining diamonds, rubies

and pearls were crushed and used in the embalming process. The desk where she had secretly crushed the diamonds to kill herself is revered by her children as a shrine and the china bowl from which the diamonds were consumed stands upon it like an altar cup. Bits of diamonds left over from the lethal cocktail and the embalming are scooped into a small pile. Her highness remains, as Princess Sakina says in a lengthy manuscript she has written and sent to the Queen, "the unseen presence".

The typed manuscript, duplicated several times and bound into books, is kept from Indian eyes "because our country is insensitive". It provides an account of events before and after the family moved to their monument, which floods in the monsoon, bakes in the summer and is cold as a tomb in winter. A picture included in the manuscript shows her highness with one of her dogs. There used to be 28; they, too, are dying out.

The manuscript is a lament for the many humiliations of the House of Oudh, and for the traumatic events leading to the death of her highness, who, according to the manuscript, followed "the rites of the Order of Reality" in consuming the crushed diamonds, "the drink of silence". She left no note, or warned of what she was going to do. Twice in the year of her death she wrote to the Indian President, appealing to him to "realise the House of Oudh's distress". There was no response.

The House of Oudh was lost in 1857 when the sybaritic Nawab Wajid Ali, the last ruler, was evicted from his Lucknow palaces by the British and his state disbanded for alleged mismanagement.

This injustice, which the British later acknowledged but never redressed, began the long process of decline from royalty to poverty. The palaces are occupied by the state government of Uttar Pradesh; the main building, Chatar Manzil Palace on the banks of the Gomti River in Lucknow, is used for pharmaceutical research.

The remaining two royals have given up hope of getting them back. All that remains is to consider how to survive now the last antiques and jewellery have been sold, and to continue with the only point of their lives: venerating the memory of their mother and contemplating their "ruination", as the princess's manuscript describes it. "Her highness remains our sustaining power," she says. "We consider ourselves the dynasty of the living dead."

Most of their valuables were stolen soon after they moved into their monument by Bawaria tribesmen posing as wood gatherers after poisoning seven of their dogs. The thieves escaped with the wares of the royal dining table — silver dinner and tea sets, 36 silver glasses and goblets, a gold bowl containing diamond-studded bracelets, rings and watches. The couple watched the plunder as they sheltered for protection behind their chained dogs indoors. Their seclusion after that became total: they saw no one,

invited no one. People "should not have the audacity to have an audience with us", the princess says.

Six months after embalming their mother, the prince and princess took the body from its vault to carry out additional embalming. She was laid on a marble slab for seven days, wrapped in a raw silk peacock blue sari, while the June heat hammered through the thick walls. She was returned to the vault, but six months later it was decided to commit her to the flames — "you must not call it that common word, *c-r-e-m-a-t-i-o-n*" — so she would "remain untouched and unseen by any human".

Thus began the final phase of the House of Oudh.



The family live in conditions beyond poverty in Malcha Mahal, a 13th-century monument

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THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES



■ VISUAL ART 1

The chilling visions of the Flemish artist Jan Fabre are displayed in a series of British shows



■ VISUAL ART 2

Cork Street showcases the distinctive and artistic embroidery of octogenarian Phoebe Hart

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3

The Boundary Gallery turns a spotlight on the powerful paintings of the late Sylvia Melland



■ TOMORROW

Director David Cronenberg on why Britain is odd man out in the controversy over his film *Crash*

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on the haunted imagination of the Flemish artist, Jan Fabre. Plus galleries round-up

From cradle to grave

Half-hidden in the leafy grounds of the Holburne Museum in Bath, the shelter may seem harmless. But anyone who enters it should be wary. Gleaming seductively from a distance, the bowler-hatted man seated inside turns out to be studded with hundreds of drawing-pins. They all face outwards, threatening to scratch the careless. Freshly-cut lengths of smoked meat wrapped round his legs add to the menacing mood.

Jan Fabre, the Flemish artist who made this sinister figure in 1978, gave it the innocuous title *Me Dreaming*. But the sightless eyes, along with the nail projecting from the man's mouth, suggest that his sleep is assailed by nightmares. And the rest of Fabre's extraordinarily ambitious exhibition, spread across six other Bath sites as well as Bristol's Arncliffe and the Oriel in Cardiff, undoubtedly issues from a haunted imagination.

Apart from Magritte, whose influence Fabre acknowledges in his figure's bowler hat, the main source of inspiration is the artist's great-grandfather. A distinguished entomologist, Jean-Henri Fabre was renowned for his work on beetles. A microscope sits on the desk in the gardener's shelter, suggesting that Jan Fabre identifies himself with an ancestor who pored for so long over the insects he collected.

In Bath the fascination becomes eerily clear at the Cottrell Room, approachable via some grand yet shabby colonnades near Pulteney Bridge. Push open the graffiti-strewn doors, and you find yourself in a dank chamber. At the far end, a carcass-like form dangles from the ceiling. As it revolves in the breeze, its surface glows and glitters.

Closer inspection reveals that it is encrusted with jewel beetles. Occasionally, their pincers rise up from this dense, embedded mass, as if struggling to protect themselves from attack. But they are all dead, and the stillness of this chilling interior is as sepulchral as an abattoir.

Whatever materials Fabre employs, he never strays far from an elegiac atmosphere. In a dark and dilapidated cellar below the City of Bath College, tea bags are suspended in profusion over a flooded floor. Through the gloom, we

‘The sightless eyes suggest he is assailed by nightmares’

gradually realise that a self-portrait of the artist has been attached to each bag. Faded and mouldering, they look ready to fall into the water and disintegrate.

To set against his remorseless emphasis on transience and loss, Fabre also busies himself with collecting. Near the Assembly Rooms, he has transformed an empty shop into a shrine filled with preservative glass jars. They stand under chair-legs, line rows of shelves and gather in a white, wooden crib. All the furniture here comes from Fabre's childhood home, where he was impressed by his mother's postwar insistence on storing food supplies. Memories of a child he experienced as a child feed much of his work. But they are all shaped by the instinctive theatricality of a

man equally renowned for his opera designs and spectacular performance works.

Each of the locations in Bath has become his stage set, nowhere more arrestingly than on the first floor of an empty Georgian house in St James's Square. The high, wide room is almost filled with a looming wooden structure called *The House of Flames*. Its doors swing open to disclose an interior as shadowy as a tomb. But no sarcophagus can be found there. Instead, our eyes gradually begin to make out the blue ballpoint lines scrawled all over the walls. Fabre is fascinated by what his great-grandfather poetically described as the ‘hour blue’ — the moment when night passes into day, light makes its first faint stirring and birds begin to sing. Determined to find its visual equivalent, Fabre has even covered Tivoli Castle in Belgium with blue ballpoint ink. The colour helps to offset the emphasis on mortality which might otherwise make his work intolerably morbid.

No hint of affirmation can be found in a deserted house on Great Bedford Street, where flycatchers hang down from a dilapidated ceiling and wait for their prey. Fabre's self-portrait with protruding red ears is displayed above the fireplace, staring out at the silent room with a vigilant air. But his presence does nothing to alleviate the predatory coldness of an installation where I felt no desire to linger.

Over at the disused mortuary chapel in Walcot, though, his dramatic transformation of the interior is far from stifling. Seven baths, all resting on claw feet, stretch from one end of the building to the other. They should resemble coffins, and glimpses of a graveyard through the win-



The sinister figure of Fabre's *Me Dreaming* (1978) pays tribute to the artist's great-grandfather, with a nod to Magritte

dows intensifies the air of doom. But the baths are empty, and Fabre has enlivened them with his ubiquitous blue ink. It gives their surfaces a dappled, mottled quality, and the depth of the colour is echoed in the reflective blue of the ovals perched like sentinels just below the chapel roof. Although their Murano glass bodies have been smothered in ink, they glint in the building's clear light.

The owl reappears in Fabre's exhibition at the Arncliffe in Bristol, where a large blue drawing presents him in the guise of a bird-catcher. As gaunt as Joseph Beuys, his face gazes out at us through the veil of a beekeeper's hat. This is a portrait of the artist as Lime Twig Man, a legendary German figure who chases birds with his lime branch and, at the same time, attracts clouds of insects. Fabre detects parallels between this mythical, 16th-century hunter and the contemporary artist, both of whom attract controversy and misunderstanding.

Upstairs, more than 500 wooden crosses lean against a long wall. Although reminiscent of war cemeteries, they are inscribed with insect names conceived by Jean-Henri Fabre. The uprooted appearance of these stacked crosses adds to their eeriness. Fabre's decision to give them the collective title *The Grave of the Unknown Computer* reinforces the unease. Humanly, he implies, will itself become obsolescent as technological prowess increases. But beetles are born survivors.

In another intriguing room at the Arncliffe, the beginnings of Fabre's obsessive

world are charted. Small, intense pencil drawings show a dead mouse suspended in a bush, a crab scuttling through the night and butterflies barely discernible through dense layers of graphite. An odd, childish glee animates the strangest images.

Fabre's sense of nest counters his ever-present awareness of the grave. In his finest work, the two are held in balance. The mouth of *Cocon*, an earth-coloured sculpture resting halfway up a wall, may reveal a disconcerting void within. But it offers

shelter as well, and an unpredictable form of new life might one day be born in its gaping, expectant body.

● Jan Fabre is at seven sites in Bath (01225 46223) until June 14, Arncliffe Bristol (0117 929919) until July 6, and Oriel Cardiff (01222 39947) until June 21

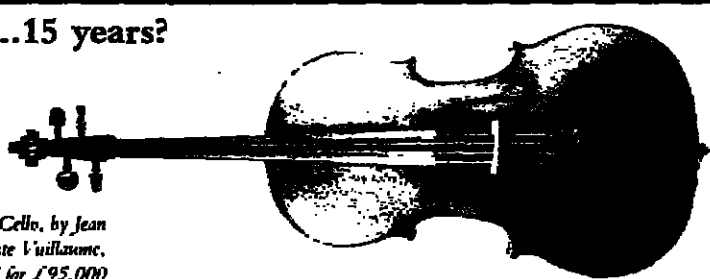
PHOEBE HART came to her own distinctive art form by a circuitous route, both artistically and geographically. Now, at the age of 80, she is known as an embroiderer and maker of boldly coloured needlepoint hangings, which she regards as rugs and insists are meant to be walked on. Born in London of American parents in 1917, she studied painting at Chelsea Polytechnic and stage design at the Slade, and had some success as a painter of murals and portraits. But the war interrupted everything, not least through the death in action of her first husband. After the war she remarried and went to Jamaica, where she began to design again at the request of a doctor who wanted work for her tuberculosis patients. She taught herself various techniques so that she could supervise others, and from there came her own personal work. At the outset she drew upon American folk-art, but branched out into her own exotic world of tropical plants and animals, mixed with the everyday sights of England and Italy, where she now lives. The Gallery, 28 Cork Street, W1 (0171-437 2812) until Saturday, 10am-6pm (Sat to 4pm)

□ FIVE years ago a touring exhibition revealed a number of neglected or forgotten figures, none more impressive than Sylvia Melland (1906-1993). From the beginning she went her own way, first to South Africa for two years — hence some extraordinarily strong landscapes — then to Paris, where Zadkine became her mentor, and to Stockholm, a period commemorated by a strikingly economical self-portrait. Later she was known as an etcher and lithographer, but she remains a powerful draughtsman with a particular penchant for subdued colour harmonies. Boundary Gallery, 98 Boundary Road, NW8 (0171-624 1126). Wed-Sat. 11am-6pm, until June 21

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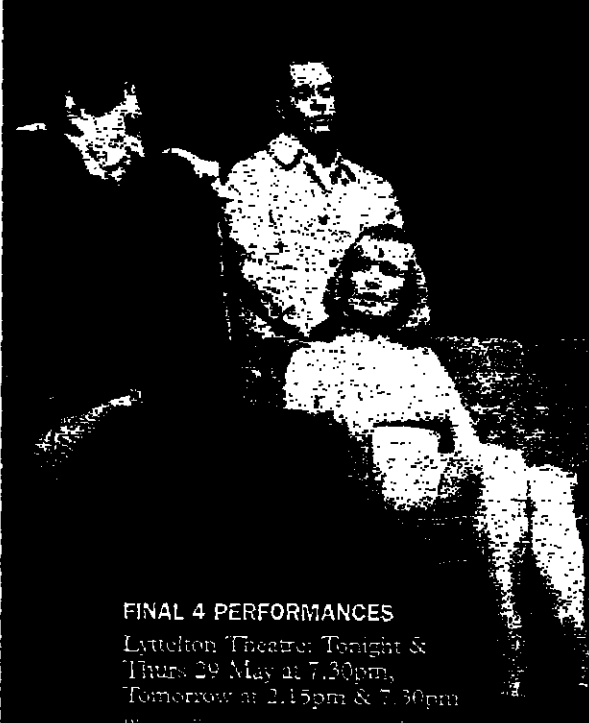
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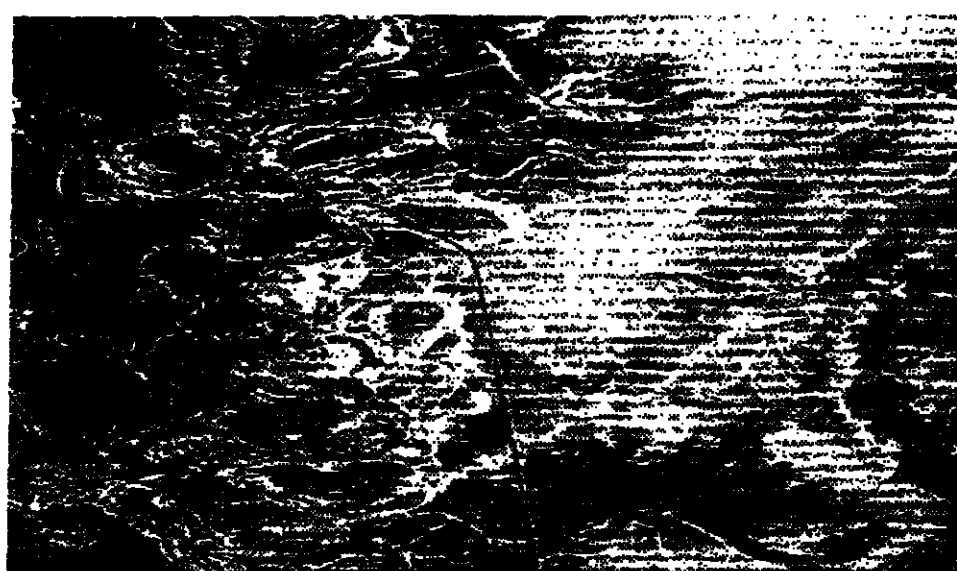
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THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 1

Reality bites: David Rousseau's dance company performs a triple bill in London

VENUE: Tonight at the Queen Elizabeth Hall



CHOICE 2

Stephanie Cole reprises her role as *A Passionate Woman* in Bromley

VENUE: From tonight at the Churchill Theatre

No spark and no cigar

Jonathan Miller's production, new two years ago, had a lot going for it, including atmospheric sets by Peter J. Davison. It could and should have developed interestingly, and I had hoped that a revival director as experienced and resourceful as David Ritch would have made good use of two miscelaneous, such as the characterisation of Carmen herself and the generally loose focus on relationships, then

Carmen

Coliseum

brought the action further downstage and tidied up the dialogue. But Ritch has been mysteriously faithful to the original, and Saturday's singularly depressing revival marked a decisive step backwards rather than forwards. Much of the blame must rest with the translation by Keith and Emma Warner, not so much the sometimes overstressed lyrics, more the dialogue, now cut to way beyond a bare minimum and delivered with the communal embarrassment that it deserves. Cues for music have been expunged and the self-conscious vulgarity of the syntax is simply eye-rolling. I recall no equivalent for "lucky bugger" in Meliach and Haley, nor for "you scare me shitless", which has been amended and is now mumbled inaudibly. This is a blot on the fair name of a company that once played one of the best *Carmen* texts in the world.

And it is a fatally inadequate springboard for any sensitive reading of the work. *Carmen*, herself remains the chief casu-



Fatal attraction: Louise Winter (Carmen) and Mary Plazas (Frasquita) in David Ritch's misconceived *Carmen*

ality, and the way the talents of Louise Winter are wasted is cause for teeth-grinding rage. She has everything for the role — the voice, the allure, the ebullience — but is saddled with a series of unbelievably frumpy costumes, never allowed to suggest the woman's anarchic humour, and put too far upstage at crucial moments. Launching the Habanera slumped against a wall as far away from the audience as it is possible to get. Give us a break.

One oddity of Miller's staging was placing principals yards apart when playing an intimate scene — José and Micaëla in the first act, José and Carmen in the second — so that relationships remained only half-established, and hence barely developed; easily adjustable, you would think, but no such luck. This also has its effect on David Rendall, who has joined the cast as José, too, has everything for the role vocally, the left as well as the delicacy, and does

what he can in a vacuum. With the protagonist so fatally played down, Micaëla almost becomes the heroine, an impression once more underlined by Janice Watson's forceful singing of the role. Robert Hayward also repeats his big-boned, relentlessly *fortissimo* Toredador and there are notable newcomers: Peter Snipps as a crystal-clear, bullish Morales and Garry Magee (Dancario), who gives a passable imitation of his near-namesake Gary Oldman

in one of his loucher movie roles. There is one further dead hand on the evening, the conducting of Alexander Polianichko. The lack of response to the music's vibrant instrumental colour and dramatic contour would have been almost laughable were the matter not so serious. Did no one check out his sympathy for French music before engaging him? Poor Bizet.

RODNEY MILNES

POP: Mark Knopfler and his country cousins are having a good time in their own sweet way

STILL plugging their only album, *Missing... Presumed Having A Good Time*, released in 1990, and still apparently having just that, Mark Knopfler's extra-curricular collective, the Notting Hillbillies, concluded a lengthy British tour with a London show that was as relaxed and good-natured as their name. Built around a nucleus of like-minded cronies from Knopfler's past — guitarists Brendan Croker and Steve Phillips, who both played with him during his apprenticeship in the blues club of Leeds, and keyboard player/guitarist Guy Fletcher, who was latterly a member of Dire Straits — the band was recently reactivated to play a couple of charity concerts and ended up touring the length and breadth of Britain.

Swinging London

The Notting Hillbillies

Shepherd's Bush Empire

Spared the vulgar demands of the promotional merry-go-round and safely cocooned from any remotely modern developments, musical or fashionable, the Hillbillies applied themselves with codgerish enthusiasm to what was clearly a labour of love. The presence on drums of the silver-haired Ed Bicknell, who holds down a day job as Knopfler's manager, contributed to the informal tone. But he was certainly no slouch, looking and playing rather like Charlie Watts (in jazz mode) and laying down a great Bo Diddley beat on *Calling Elvis*.

The latter was one of several Dire

Straits songs included in the set, although Knopfler was at pains to point out how many of them had been covered by bona fide country acts such as Waylon Jennings (*Setting Me Up*), the Judds (*Water of Love*) and Randy Travis (*Are We In Trouble Now*, from Knopfler's second solo album). But although these were elegantly played and greeted with tremendous enthusiasm by the jam-packed audi-

ence, it was the more traditional western swing and country-blues material that coaxed the best performances, notably *Blues Stay Away From Me*, *KC Moan* and *There's A Little*, the latter boasting the most marvellous four-part gospel harmonies.

Despite the democratic organisation of affairs which gave Phillips and Croker a roughly equal quota of lead vocal and guitar duties, Knopfler was effortlessly the dominant presence. His honeyed guitar tone on *Your Own Sweet Way*, so understated yet so eloquent, was like a lover's whisper, while his gruff, languid vocal on *I'm the Fool* was laden with a quietly heartfelt melancholy.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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Amsterdam is the end of Britain

Sign this treaty and we abolish our country, says John Redwood

If we sign the present draft of the Amsterdam treaty, we will abolish our country. The draft treaty is by far the most ambitious document yet to emerge from the Brussels administration so far. It plans to set up what Chancellor Kohl has called a "political as well as a monetary" Union. Anyone else would call it a new country.

The new treaty is based on a strong legal structure, giving to the centre all the principal powers that used to reside in Europe's democratic national parliaments. It turns on the British idea of subsidiarity, making clear that the European Union will enjoy all the means necessary to attain its objectives and carry through its policies. The Court of Justice rules supreme. Under this treaty, there would be no doubt that it could overturn Acts of Parliament and be the ultimate lawmaker. It will interpret the needs of the European Union and see that they are enforced. You cannot have a Europe of nations and this version of the Court.

The new Union would even have the right to take Britain's votes away in the Council of Ministers. At the moment we have the right to vote against proposals we do not like and the right to veto the most important. We are told that the Union is "founded on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law". It does not have the grandeur of Jeffersonian prose, but it is as ambitious as the American Declaration of Independence in its scope. We are told that these rights are reflected in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. If the other members think we are in breach of any of these rights or freedoms, we will lose our votes and our veto in the Council. Incorporating the Convention into British law will require changes to our law codes anyway, but will not exempt us from further legal action claiming we have broken the letter or the spirit of the Union's purposes.

Some will say there is no threat in this because Britain would never want to break those principles. We are a democratic and a fair-minded state. Yet in recent years we have been found in breach of the Convention several times: it might be the Government's anti-terrorism measures, or some technicality over equal opportunities that other countries could use as an excuse to take our votes away. Then they could pass measures that we did not like.

The EU already has a chain of embassies around the world. Now it is to have a foreign policy for them. Sign this treaty, and we will have to obey the general view in our relations with any other overseas country. The treaty says that the common policy must cover "all areas of foreign and security policy". It goes on to insist: "The member states shall support the Union's external and security policy actively and unreservedly in the spirit of loyalty and mutual solidarity." The overseas terri-

ories of member states will be brought under the general guidance of EU policy. The Falkland Islands may not go to Argentina, but they would come under Spain and other continental countries.

The United Kingdom would for the time being keep its seat on the UN Security Council, but we could only use it to put forward the agreed European, not the British, policy on any international crisis. We would be on the way to establishing a European army, and to seeing our troops committed to action even where Britain had reservations about the wisdom of such a course.

The Government seems only to have latched on to the plan to take away our right to a separate immigration and borders policy. The treaty would require us to follow a common European policy on visas and on who we would allow into our region of the new Europe. All this will be decided by qualified majority vote. Britain would lose all the advantages of our island status. We would no longer have our own policy, policed at our own points of entry.

The treaty takes criminal laws, policing and justice matters under its wing. The first steps are taken towards a European police force. Our criminal law comes under the Court of Justice, and we would have to move our law codes into line with the others.

Meanwhile Gordon Brown is busily making what is left of the Bank of England independent, preparing to make it into a wholly-owned subsidiary of the European Bank. It will not be long before he rams the Stability Pact through the Commons, placing our economy under continental control.

The treaty takes wide-ranging powers in many other areas. It strengthens the control of the EU in consumer protection, public health, the environment, social policy, employment, transport, regional policy and statistics. In short, it gives to the Union all of the power usually associated with a government.

It is high time Parliament and public woke up to these issues. The election gave Tony Blair a big mandate to run this country, but it gave him no mandate to give it away. So worried was he by the sceptical views of many voters that he signed an article in *The Sun* about how he would defend Britain. His party wrapped itself in the Union Jack and adopted the bulldog as its symbol. Mr Blair must now live up to those fine words.

We have need of a Government which will explain all this honestly to the British people, and then explain to our partners that we cannot sign up to a single word of the Amsterdam treaty. This is a federal treaty. It is the last main treaty they need to take our country away. Sign this, and we will no longer have a powerful British democracy capable of righting our wrongs and representing our interests.

The author is MP for Wokingham and a candidate in the election for the leadership of the Conservative Party.

Woodrow Wyatt thinks we could all do with less of Gordon Brown's high-handed hyperactivity

Calm down, you're rocking the boat

Remember those huge Labour advertisements that stated that under the Tories, Britain had dropped to 18th place in the world prosperity league? Gordon Brown chanted: "The true record of the past 17 years is one of our country falling further behind." Labour's figures came from the World Economic Forum's global competitiveness rankings. Last week the same organisation issued its rankings for 1997. Britain had advanced to seventh place and was the sole European Union country in the top ten. France and Germany were in the twenties, Italy was ranked 39th.

The Economist Intelligence Unit rates Britain's business environment second best in the world. Similar praise for Britain's steadily growing economic strength emanates from the International Monetary Fund and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Every one with the slightest knowledge of the subject, except the Chancellor of the Exchequer, accepts that Britain has never been so prosperous. It was typically graceless of him to dismiss the latest report from the WEF, the organisation on whose findings he previously relied for his propaganda.

As the new Chancellor strides along, head in air, he looks well pleased with himself and the stir he causes. The Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, had welcomed Mr Brown's decision to let the Bank fix interest rates and his press conference statement that the Bank would be consulted before any change in its supervisory and regulatory powers. This promise was repeated privately to Mr George. He was understandably angry when Mr Brown publicly broke it. Unwisely he hinted that, briefly, he contemplated resignation. The Brown camp jubilantly bruited abroad that here was a chance not to renew Mr George's appointment next year and to choose a more pliant Governor. The threat has enraged many in the City and blown up Labour's carefully nurtured business-friendliness.

In his Budget, however, Mr Brown could redeem himself by boldly ending mortgage tax relief. It would infuriate the middle classes, so ardently wooed. But it would end a social injustice whereby one third of the nation is subsidised by the other two thirds, who include the poorest.

The new Government boasts its decisions were painstakingly prepared for years. But they have the air of frantic rushing about to demonstrate a new beginning of energy and purpose, without a coherent plan.

In Northern Ireland, allowing Sinn Féin to meet Government officials will merely engender suspicions among the majority determined to remain British. It should be apparent to all that the IRA will never give up their arms or cease violence. They need both for their protection rackets and drug smuggling. The money this brings buys ever more sophisticated weapons. Naturally the Loyalists will retaliate. Nothing will improve until the known leaders are permanently interned and their followers ruthlessly hunted down, and to hell with the European courts.

Mr Blair was wise to consult Lady Thatcher on Europe. I hope he will continue to do so. Our European policy should be a cross-party affair. There are sharp divisions within Labour and the Tories, but our European partners are in disarray. The resignation of the French Prime Minister, announced in advance of the second round of elections, suggests that the single currency is dead in France. Chancellor Kohl now looks increasingly isolated and old-fashioned. On BSE Mr Blair will have no better luck than John Major. The Continent is awash with unreported cases and the bodies are buried. BSE increases daily on the mainland as it ebbs away in Britain, but our EU partners, out of anti-British hostility, will continue to pretend otherwise despite the scientific evidence.

There are some good things about the Blairites. They may be more efficient in dealing with juvenile criminals speedily; they will have less obstruction from the civil rights brigade. They are better placed for two or three years to prevent increases in nurses' pay and that of auxiliary hospital workers. The indications are that the minimum wage is likely in practice to lead to no large pay increases. That is encouraging.

The awfulness of new Labour is its puritan priggishness. The ban on cigarette advertising and sport sponsorship is Clinton-style interference with civil liberty. It will badly dent our new excellence in many fields, including cricket, among whose stars is the chain-smoking Australian bowler, Shane Warne. The evidence that having the right genes or keeping to a saturated fat-free diet is good protection against heart disease and cancer is convincing. Ever to think constructively about ways to help them. Provincial middle England said: "I could never vote Labour; they would give our hard-earned money to dirty scoundrels."

It was to this group that Frank Field was appealing when he said that his idea of welfare is to make prosperous people so happy and secure that they want to share these blessings.

All these emotions are still highly volatile. Labour could indeed change the allegiance of the *Mail* newspaper; on the other hand, it is equally likely that strong *Mail*-ish support could give Labour a new, brighter hardness of approach. If it does, where then can dissident thought and feeling run to?

perhaps the Tory party will trek to the high right, to the upper slopes of Peregine Worshtorne, and devote itself to opposing the Right-but-Repulsive tone of Blair and Mandelson by adopting a "Wrong-but-Wromantic" cavalier pose: anti-Europe, tailcoat-wearing, all Latin tags and *Brillhead* Revisited. Perhaps Libby Dem will readopt the style of Liberal conference stalls of the 1970s and make their protest against Lounge Suit-Labour with a flurry of sandals and Swammy, hand-woven skirts and recycled prayer-yurts. We shall see, and we shall keep a supply of long spoons handy.

If he has any sense, so will Mr Blair.

Press barons and Tories decide the Prime Minister is 'one of us' — but does he sup with a long spoon?

Mr Blair's grand new friends



Lord Rothermere, Tony Blair and Baroness Thatcher: the *Daily Mail's* proprietor and the elder stateswoman find they can do business with a new Labour premier after all

In Alum Bay on the Isle of Wight there is a cliff of coloured sand, pink and purple, yellow and orange. At the top you can buy miniature glass lighthouses filled with layers of this sand: sometimes in tidy stripes, sometimes artistically disposed in lumps and whorls of contrasting colour. But always the dividing lines are clear and sharp: only when you get the thing home will inquisitive small fingers pick the stopper, spill a bit and shake up the rest into a messy blur.

So it is with politics this spring. Only a few weeks ago there were two fiercely different colours, resistant to mixing. However close the two main parties' policies, their supporters glared across an emotional gulf. The *Daily Mail* exoriated Labour as "stomach-churning" or "serial opportunists". Right-wing commentators warned that a Labour victory would bring in horrors: loss of sovereignty, collapsing markets, rats gnawing bin-bags in the street while striking duns cavorted at lavish municipal gay and lesbian centres. Meanwhile, their opponents wrote shudderingly from the hustings of the "mean, sour faces" of provincial Tory supporters, mined the treasure for variants on "corrupt" and blamed every social evil of the past two decades directly on "Thatcherism".

It may have been a bit of a Punch and Judy show, but we were used to it. We knew which uniform to shoot at. Anyone assailed by natural, intelligent doubts could quickly find opponents repulsive enough to drive them back behind the barricades. A Tory I know was cured of wavering by one afternoon at the NCT conference; myself, I found that lunch at the Institute of Economic Affairs (charming though everyone was) caused me to rebound farther to the left than I had ventured since 1969.

Now all is in disarray, the sands mixed and muddled. Lady Thatcher pops in on Tony Blair with advice about foreigners. Lord Rothermere—who owns the *Mail* titles and who, a week before the election, told the *Financial Times* that Mr Blair would never control "the wild men of the Labour Party"—has shifted his noble backside to the Labour benches. His newspapers need not follow him, he says; not unless their right-wing views "start to affect circulation".

He knows that this could happen. People do not like to be left out of a new trend, and it takes an exceptionally loyal rat to stay aboard the good ship Tory while it is lurching around uncommanded with the officers knifing one another. Labour is not only in power but in fashion, and Lord Rothermere's papers are, above all, very stylish. Their readers may insist that they support shiny Mr Blair, with his clean-looking children and his achieving (yet elegant and loyal) wife.

The *Mail* is, after all, obsessed with praising those who are controlled, clean, thin and tidy. Its greatest damnations are reserved for the stout, the dishevelled and the inappropriately dressed: it had trouble with Kenneth Clarke, and noisily pilloried Mo Mowlam for getting fat and having bad hair, before she explained about her illness. Mrs Cherie Blair won its heart in one defining moment when she permitted her immaculate shoes to be carried

into No 10 in full view of the cameras, stashed in a hanging shoe-tidy. If there is one household object that symbolises *Daily Mail* woman, it is the hanging shoe-tidy: some of us have even come to feel, in an obscure way, that the revolting heap of ragged footwear in our own wardrobes is somehow a courageous liberal statement.

I would not knock the *Mail* titles, which have achieved great circulations and a just reputation for expensive, insistent pursuit of stories. But many of those stories bolster a particular set of values: the values of an achieving, tidy, conventional, self-

centred urban middle class. The *Mail* has little sympathy for failure and disorder, for single mothers, the "underclass", whingers, scruffs, home-sensu or eccentrics. It hates rude tone of it and the last administration died of an 18-year build-up of bad atmospheres. There were grantees High-Tory attitudes about not listening to hot-pollot, gently nihilistic ones such as Matthew Parris's memorable "I am a Conservative because I honestly believe that nothing can be done". There was Big Bang greed, and there was a prime intolerance courted by Margaret Thatcher with her Grantham reminiscences and

with voting Conservative. The power of well-told anecdote has been harnessed to policy: how many times has a Tory minister cited some grisly tale of benefit scrounging or PC-craziness straight from the *Mail*?

Yet that stylish spite and impatience with nonconformity could easily transfer to the new masters. There is already common ground: Jack Straw's earnestness about beggars, Barbara Follett's suits, Peter Mandelson's hard policy of mineral water and no pudding. Very new Labour, very *Daily Mail*.

The sands mix, the landscape changes. Apart from the usual Vicars of Bray, there are people now praising Labour, who alarm its old adherents. "I do not know if I can feel the same," one friend of Mr Blair has said, "now that Paul Johnson is on his side." Others, more tolerant, promise to stick with Tony until the conversion of, say, Roger Scruton. Or until Dr Mowlam does a "me and my shoe-tidy" feature.

These frivolities matter because we are human, and respond to governments not as sets of policies but as people. A government develops an atmosphere, partly derived from its supporters. This may not determine policy but it determines the spirit and tone of it and the last administration died of an 18-year build-up of bad atmospheres. There were grantees High-Tory attitudes about not listening to hot-pollot, gently nihilistic ones such as Matthew Parris's memorable "I am a Conservative because I honestly believe that nothing can be done". There was Big Bang greed, and there was a prime intolerance courted by Margaret Thatcher with her Grantham reminiscences and

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If he has any sense, so will Mr Blair.

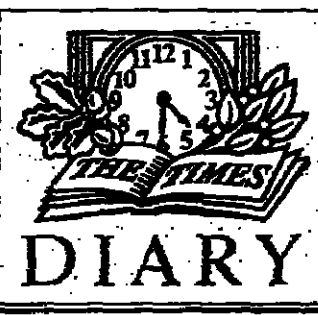
Libby Purves

No-hope soap

IN THE air-conditioned skyscrapers of Hong Kong, conversation has turned from high finance to the slumber of rural Dorsetshire and the imminent disappearance of *The Archers* from the colony's airwaves.

At midnight on June 30, when the territory returns to Chinese rule, British Forces Broadcasting Service will pack away its microphones in Hong Kong for the last time — which means an end to its daily transmission of the world's longest-running soap series.

In desperation, *Archers* addicts in Hong Kong have set up the Save *The Archers* Club. "It's just a story, but if people get hooked on the story they stay hooked," says Adele Duncan, the driving force behind the campaign. "We're trying to persuade a local station to buy the series from the BBC. We'd like a station like Radio Television Hong



Kong to take it over: that would be the logical home for *The Archers*." Until the early 1970s, *The Archers* was indeed broadcast by RTHK. But they dropped the programme, deciding that the wily schemes of the Grundys and their ilk were not of interest to Hong Kong audiences. "It no longer fits with the cultural mix," said the station yesterday. Back at the forces broadcasting base in the Prince of Wales barracks, letters demanding a solution to the problem are thudding daily on to the doormat.

● China teacups clattered among lady spectators at Bexley in Kent yesterday when Ben Hollis, England's new 19-year-old cricket pin-up, appeared with his brother Adam at a charity tournament in memory of his former team-mate Graham Kersey. "I am trying to keep my head down and think about playing for Surrey tomorrow," said the man who is now

landers, are limbering up for their first overseas jaunt in decades, events have taken the kind of turn which would cause Captain Mainwaring to blow his bonnet.

The Highlanders leave on Wednesday for South Africa, where their current charge, the 66-year-old 11th Duke of Atholl, lives a quiet life in retirement after inheriting the title unexpectedly last year.

But South Africa has told the ageing warhorses that their drill rifles and ceremonial daggers are dangerous ethnic weapons and must remain behind. "I don't think any of the lads have marched without a rifle, so we'll need to do a wee bit of practice — swinging both arms instead of one," says Sergeant Major Leonard Brailsford, a police constable from Perth.

Their bagpipes, at least, have been declared safe.

turning female heads at every step. "I knew I would do it for England, but some people thought that it was a bit weird for a 19-year-old to be picked."

Ball belle

THE PARTY of the season is being planned discreetly at Kelvedon Hall in Essex, home of the former Transport Secretary Paul Channon. Invitations have been



dispatched to more than 300 guests for the Channon Ball, a July dance to celebrate the wedding of Channon's theatre-producing daughter, Georgia, to the polo player Antony Furse.

The marriage service, attended by the Duke of Kent and scores of Guinness cousins, was held two months ago in the Channons' local church and was followed by a lavish reception. However, the former Minister has decided to splurge once again for his daughter. Comes with a champagne service will transport guests from London for dinner followed by dancing and a breakfast of scrambled eggs, smoked salmon and bacon.

Crazy limey

THE REAL jaw-dropper among literary performances at the Hay-on-Wye festival came from Martin Amis at the weekend, when he read a short story he had written entitled *What I did in my holidays*. He prefaced the event with some gobbledeegook about how the story had arrived "whole" in his mind, and explained that it should be read in an American accent for its full ironic impact.

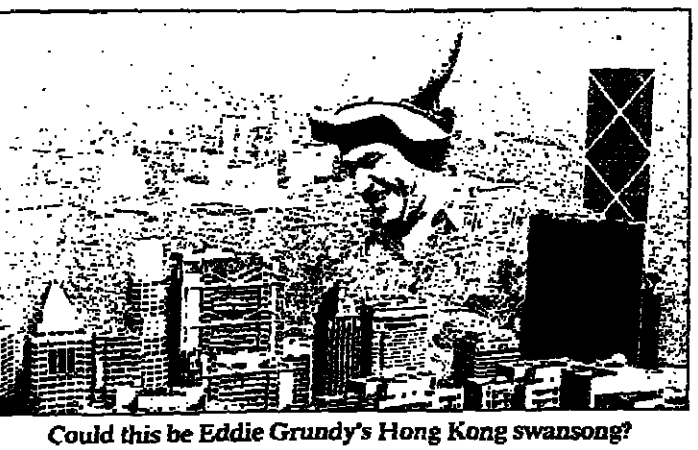
"The story wasn't a story at all



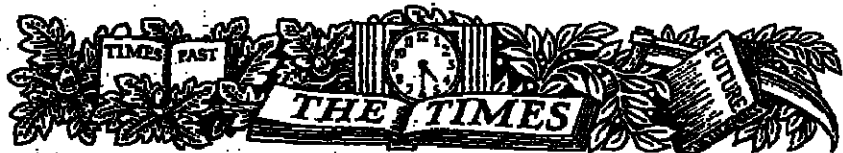
Amis' American cocktail

and Martin's American accent was hilariously bad and strange," explained one true American in the audience. "He replaced every 'e' with a 'g' as in 'gable television'; 's' became 'z' as in 'zreets'; 'p' turned into 'b' which gave us 'barked the gar'; and he had a weird, elongated way of pronouncing vowels."

"It was quite awful other than those few references to Isabel Fonseca, the lovely mother of his child, who was sitting in the audience with their baby."



Could this be Eddie Grundy's Hong Kong swansong?



A FIRST ROUND DEFEAT

Even Juppé's resignation may not save his Government

President Chirac always knew that he was taking a gamble in calling a snap parliamentary election. What he and the Paris Bourse did not anticipate was the force of the brutal rebuff French voters gave to his Government. With the Left polling around 40 per cent of the vote, the jubilant Socialists now believe outright victory is within their grasp in the second, decisive round. Alain Juppé, the beleaguered Prime Minister, has offered to fall on his sword, saying that whoever wins next Sunday's round, he intends to resign. And the real winners of the bad-tempered campaign, Jean-Marie Le Pen and the extreme right National Front, are already plotting to mobilise and capture the disaffected abstainers who made up almost a third of the electorate.

The choice for M Chirac is not as easy as M Juppé may suppose. It is perfectly clear that the French public is angry — with the Prime Minister's style, policies, promises and personality. But the architect of the austerity programme that has caused such unpopularity cannot simply be dropped and blamed for the weekend debacle: even the French would balk at such cynicism. Philippe Séguin, the outgoing Speaker of the National Assembly, may be a fatter, more jovial figure. But since his own conversion to the cause of economic and monetary union he could have no other message than that of the hapless M Juppé: France must still make the painful cuts in its bloated social security budget if the country is to have any hope of refuelling its economy and cutting unemployment, let alone qualifying for EMU.

M Juppé may have been guilty of governing with just a tiny segment of his huge parliamentary majority and not including such figures as M Séguin or Edouard Balladur. He may also have undermined his own credibility by previous capitulations to lorry drivers, farmers and

others who have held the country to ransom. But the real problem is that the Government has been unwilling or unable to counter the attractive but mendacious campaign conducted by the Socialists.

Lionel Jospin is hardly a dynamic figure, but he has insisted his party could, in co-habitation with M Chirac, continue the drive for monetary union while halting the austerity programme and the hated market liberalisation. To most analysts such pretensions are absurd; they would either exacerbate the present economic imbalances or lead to a monetary union so watered down that it was unacceptable to France's proposed partners, especially the Germans. Moreover, the likely dependence on communist votes would scupper any hope of continued reforms.

Yet neither M Chirac nor M Juppé has challenged such claims because neither has wanted to draw attention to the real pain France must go through if present policies are to succeed. Meanwhile the National Front, mixing demagoguery with xenophobia, has played on this dilemma to bleed votes from the Government and record the far right's highest postwar parliamentary vote. M Chirac must hope that it will lose most of the 133 seats it will fight in the coming round. He must also hope that his own supporters, having registered a protest, will return to the fold. He may be correct in deciding that a show-down was better now than later; but he will need to show a lot more courage, determination and above all engagement over the next week if the momentum of a protest vote is not to overturn the past two years' attempts to modernise France. Otherwise the Opposition, falsely portraying itself as a reformed Blairite party, will win an astounding upset victory and take the country back to an untenable, unworkable Mitterrand past.

UNBUDGETED AGENDA

Brown should stick to fulfilling his manifesto promises

Britain's taxpayers should brace themselves for a shock when the Chancellor delivers his long-awaited first Budget sometime in the next few weeks. The cause for trepidation is Gordon Brown's little-noticed announcement last Tuesday that he did not accept the assumption of a continuing robust economic recovery built into the Treasury's present financial forecasts. According to the figures used by Kenneth Clarke in his last Budget, the British economy is expected to grow at an average rate of less than 2 per cent in the 1990s. This compares with an average of 2.25 per cent in each of the previous two decades and 2.8 per cent from 1950 to 1969.

For Mr Brown to suggest, as he did last week, that the Treasury's growth assumptions for the years ahead are too high sends a depressing message to anyone running a business or hoping to find a job. His pessimism also suggests that his faith in the economic revolution of the 1980s is not even skin-deep. But worst of all, his gloomy assumptions could imply a dramatic increase in taxes. This could not only damage the bond of trust Mr Blair hoped to forge with the British people. It could also do serious damage to the economy — and thereby turn Mr Brown's gloom about Britain into a self-fulfilling prophecy.

What could be his motivation for downgrading the Budget growth assumptions? Perhaps the new Chancellor genuinely believes, along with Tony Benn, Arthur Scargill and a few others, that the economy is fundamentally weaker today than it was in the days of national plans and beer and sandwiches at Downing Street. More probably Mr Brown wants to arrange the figures so as to deprive his Tory predecessors of credit for Britain's economic successes in the future. This is an understandable, if not an honourable, political motive. The Chancellor may, however, have two other more disquieting motives.

BRUTAL YARDSTICK

The fashion industry sends the wrong message to teenage girls

"You can never be too thin or too rich." That Eighties mantra still seems to whirl around the heads of teenage girls. This is no normal mixture of narcissism and materialism, two vices that are probably as old as mankind. It is a peculiar form of narcissism that equates skinniness with beauty.

So the news that aerobics have no impact on the fitness of pre-pubescent girls may well be worrying to their parents. If all the activity does is to burn off calories without even having the beneficial effect of making the children healthier, it may soon be classed alongside compulsive dieting as one of the demons that can haunt young girls.

Why are female teenagers much more likely to believe that they are overweight than their male counterparts? It cannot surely be that girls of that age are naturally fatter. No, the problem is the yardstick by which they judge themselves — and it looks more like a stick than a shapely young woman. A boy has to be obese before he thinks of himself as overweight. A girl merely has to be average, and she will be a stick or two heavier than the role models who grace the pages of her favourite magazines.

Yet when magazine editors are tackled about the question of skinny models, they often hide behind the issue of health. Asked recently why *American Vogue* used such

thin girls for its fashion shoots, its editor, Anna Wintour, answered with a lecture about the perils of obesity — as if there were no normal, healthy bodyweight in between thin and obese.

It is this juxtaposition of extremes — if you are not skinny, you are fat — that holds teenage girls in thrall and leads to eating disorders and obsessive exercise. One of the characteristics of anorexia and bulimia is that they still believe that they are "fat" even when they look like a Rwandan refugee. Although there are a few cases of anorexia in boys, they are far rarer, possibly because the "ideal" shape for a teenage boy, as portrayed in advertisements and magazines, is an achievable shape for most. The corresponding female "ideal" is one which most girls cannot match, however much they diet. Fasting cannot narrow the width of the hips.

Although girls are doing better at school now than boys and although, we are told, the future of work is female, young women are still caught up in this tyranny of unachievable "beauty". By their educational performance, adolescent girls ought to have higher self-esteem than boys. That they do not must at least partly be the fault of the older women who fashion images which daily make many teenage girls feel inadequate.

'Think again' on millennium show

From Mr Bevis Hillier

Sir, On March 23, 1999, you published a letter from me under the heading "Celebrating 2000". In it I suggested three things:

that preparations should begin at once for a British exhibition or festival to mark the millennium; that, like the Great Exhibition of 1851 and unlike the 1951 Festival of Britain, it should have an international, rather than narrowly national, scope; that "an all-party planning committee should be set up now by the Government, so that fully ten years can be given to preparations".

In its wisdom, the Conservative Government ignored all these suggestions.

No serious attempt even to begin preparing a festival/exhibition was made until 1994. There was endless dithering. No one with any experience of organising major exhibitions was ever put in charge. A stretch of poisoned ground in Greenwich was selected as the site. A parody of the 1951 Dome of Discovery, affectionately nicknamed "the dustbin-lid", was designed as the main attraction.

No real attempt was made to get the Labour Party on board, though a token Labour member was appointed to the Millennium Commission. Far from being international in scope, the show was to be, it seemed, a very British, and specifically Tory, piece of triumphalism.

As a result Labour are now reconsidering the whole project, and one can hardly blame them. There is even a rumour that the show might be moved to Birmingham.

There is a chance for a new start. May I make four suggestions this time to those who are now considering what should be done:

The polluted land at Greenwich should be abandoned, also the "dustbin-lid" design;

Birmingham should be ruled out. Tourists do not come to Britain to look at the gaggle of Victorian buildings which the bulldozers have spared in Birmingham. They come to see the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace and the great London museums and galleries.

Festival 2000 should take place in Hyde Park — where both the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the VE-Day celebrations of 1995 were such a success. The budget does not have to be as crippling as the Greenwich one threatened to be. But, bearing in mind that the Crystal Palace went up in just six months in 1851, there is still time to achieve something memorable — perhaps a pavilion which, like the Crystal Palace, could be moved to another site after the festival is over.

A person with experience of organising large exhibitions should be put in charge and should be given by the Heritage Secretary — in view of the urgency of the task now — a large measure of autonomy. Red tape is emphatically not wanted. The pulling out of fingers is.

Yours sincerely,
BEVIS HILLIER,
Garrick Club, 15 Garrick Street, WC2.
May 23.

Drug treatment in jail

From Mr Michael Meakin

Sir, The Government is rightly concerned over the Home Office report that one in five people arrested is on heroin. We see this in our work in prisons, where one in three of the prisoners we treat has used heroin.

Our charity, RAP, provides intensive drug-treatment programmes to prisoners suffering from chronic drug addiction. Over 50 per cent of those treated have been dependent on drugs or alcohol for more than ten years; over 75 per cent have been in prison at least five times. Each prisoner reports committing on average over £1,000 worth of property crime per week prior to imprisonment.

We break this cycle of drugs, crime, prison and yet more drugs and prison. We provide treatment for the addict at the point where he is a "captivity audience", with the opportunity for receiving intensive and sustained treatment over a period of time. This is a very cost-effective way of providing therapy as the residential costs are already being paid for.

Our research on the progress of our "graduates" after release into the community shows a high level of success, with many leading useful lives free from drug misuse and crime. More treatment programmes like ours would reduce addiction and crime.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL MEAKIN (Trustee),
RAP — Rehabilitation for Addicted Prisoners Trust,
179-181 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1.
May 20.

President at No 10

From Mr Joe Haines

Sir, William Rees-Mogg (article, May 26) is wrong to think that no American President has ever attended a Cabinet of a foreign power. Richard Nixon did so when he met Harold Wilson's Cabinet in February 1969.

Yours faithfully,
JOE HAINES,
1 South Frith,
London Road, Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
May 26.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Advertising of brands and smoking

From the Director-General of the Advertising Association

Sir, The Chief Executive of the Association for Public Health (letter, May 20; see also letters, May 21) disputes the view that cigarette advertising is aimed at promoting brand names rather than encouraging people to take up smoking.

Cigarette advertisements consist of two parts: the first accounts for 80 per cent of the space and is devoted to a brand message. It is this space that tobacco manufacturers use to compete with each other for smokers' attention, often in a way which is impenetrable to many non-smokers.

Indeed it is often only the presence of the statutory health warning that indicates that this is an advertisement for a cigarette brand. But it is the presence of this warning, which now must account for 20 per cent of the overall space, that provides a generic tobacco content to the advertisement, albeit for non-smoking rather than the converse.

These warnings have been appearing since the early 1970s and independent evidence suggests that they have helped constrain demand while allowing manufacturers to compete for share.

In this emotion-riddled debate it is important to remember that the UK has been operating one of the most effective anti-smoking policies in the world for more than 25 years, irrespective of the complexion of government.

Smoking in the UK has declined by more than 40 per cent during this time — significantly ahead of those countries which have introduced advertising bans — and it continues to do so.

It would be ironic if well intentioned but simplistic action caused this trend to falter.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW BROWN,
Director-General,
The Advertising Association,
Abford House, 15 Wilton Road, SW1.
May 21.

From the Director of Forest

Sir, A ban on tobacco advertising is an attack on the rights of adult consumers to obtain information about tobacco products they can legally purchase.

New developments, such as reductions in tar levels and filter improvement, are being superseded by the development of the "smokeless" cigarette, which gives off 90 per cent less tobacco smoke, thereby addressing the main complaint of the anti-smokers.

Without advertising how would adult consumers receive information about these changes? Why should manufacturers even bother to research and develop new products if they cannot inform their customers?

The loyal oath

From Mr David Prockter

Sir, Writing of the Sinn Féin MPs' refusal to take the loyal oath, James M. Todd and P. T. Streeter (letters, May 21) suggest that because the MPs were elected as republicans they cannot fairly be asked to swear allegiance to the Queen, and that it is undemocratic to exclude them on the grounds of their failure to do so.

Scottish, Welsh and Irish nationalists of course have a right to work for self-determination. But, in common with anyone else seeking constitutional change in any country, they must observe the constitutional status quo until their proposed change is accepted.

Since the Queen is now both servant and symbol of the State, the swearing of the loyal oath is no longer a vow to defend the monarch's personal supremacy in times of feudal strife; it is a commitment to uphold the unwritten constitution that the office embodies.

Are your correspondents arguing that because individual MPs are democratically elected by local constituents they are under no obligation to observe the constitutional rules sanctioned by national consensus? That sounds to me like a recipe for anarchy.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PROCKTER,
36 London Road,
Marlborough, Wiltshire.
May 22.

Homoeopathy cuts

From Dr Peter Fisher

Sir, Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority has decided to block NHS referrals for homoeopathic treatment at The Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital (report, May 22), although it intends to continue funding for some other complementary therapies. This decision is based on a series of misapprehensions.

This hospital, despite its name, provides a range of "complementary" therapies. We have services for cancer care, rheumatism, back pain, stress, women's and children's problems, among others, each combining an integrated range of therapies appropriate to the clinical problems. These include acupuncture, manipulation, nutritional therapy as well as homoeopathy and others, all provided by sanctorially registered healthcare professionals. Yet all referrals have been blocked.

It is not true to say that homoeopathy is unsupported by scientific evidence: independent reviews of the

Banning tobacco advertising will reduce the incentive for manufacturers to invest money in product research and development, consolidate their existing market shares as no new competitors will be able to enter the market, and remove the prospect of further choice for consumers. So, who will be the real beneficiaries of a tobacco advertising ban?

Yours faithfully,
MARJORIE NICHOLSON,
Director, FOREST
(Promoting equal rights for smokers),
2 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1.
May 23.

From the Chairman of the Wills Hall Association

Sir, Mrs Janet Fitch (letter, May 21) can be reassured that former residents of Wills Hall at the University of Bristol who are members of this association certainly recognise the contribution of the Wills family to their educational wellbeing. Our annual reunion culminates with a service held in the chapel given by Dame Monica Wills in memory of her two brothers, George Alfred Wills and Herbert Henry Wills.

Other buildings in the university also commemorate the generosity of the Wills family. It is doubtful whether, earlier in this century and engaged in a legitimate business, they could have predicted the censoriousness of the current debate. (I write as a non-smoker.) At the time the family saw a need and responded to it, and we remain in their debt.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID G. PRICE,
Chairman,
Wills Hall Association
(University of Bristol),
339 Desborough Avenue,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.
May 21.

From Mr J. V. Carter

Sir, Mr Frank Dobson tells us that 120,000 deaths are caused by smoking each year, which is one fifth of the death rate. Other reports tell us that the number of smokers in the UK population has fallen to 30 per cent. Furthermore, among the over-60 age group, more than 50 per cent have smoked in the past.

The only sure statistic is that the death rate is 100 per cent. So, if only one fifth of annual deaths can be attributed to a habit enjoyed by one third of the whole population and at some stage by over half of its older members, is not smoking contributing less than its fair share to the death rate?

Yours faithfully,
J. V. CARTER,
1 Ruscott, Cross Oak Road,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.
May 20.

'New Deal' for jobless

From Mr Mark Corney

Sir, Andrew Smith, the Minister responsible for the "New Deal" jobs scheme for unemployed 18 to 24-year-olds, has explained that "it's very important that the whole programme is carefully constructed, with a thorough-going concern for quality" (report, Business, May 21).

The emphasis on quality is very welcome, since with fewer than 200,000 18 to 24-year-olds out of work for six months or more, the programme will cater for the least employable in the youth labour market and the most disaffected in society. Nevertheless, the history of special employment measures in the UK suggests that it takes two years at least to reach acceptable quality levels.

Labour has always stated that young people must join a job or training programme or lose their benefit. But the threat of losing benefit combined with the availability of low-quality schemes will result in social exclusion. Only if young people fail to participate when the quality of the New Deal is high should the Minister consider removing benefits from young people.

Yours sincerely,
MARK CORNEY (Director),
MC Consultancy,
Osborne House,
3-5 Portland Road, Hythe, Kent.
May 21.

Homoeopathy cuts

Sir, Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority has decided to block NHS referrals for homoeopathic treatment at The Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital (report, May 22), although it intends to continue funding for some other complementary therapies. This decision is based on a series of misapprehensions.

Meanwhile patients and their GPs are voting with their feet: sales of homoeopathic medicines are rising at 15 per cent annually, and GP fund-holder referrals to this hospital rose 27 per cent last year.

NHS purchasing should be based on evidence and patient demand, not, as seems to be the case here, on a "we don't understand how it works, therefore it doesn't work" argument.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FISHER
(Director of Research),
The Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital NHS Trust,
Great Ormond Street, WC1.
May 22.

Copyright as the foe of creativity

From Mr Philip W. Plumb

Sir, Richard Morrison (article, Arts, May 17) is right to excoriate the extension of copyright from 50 years after the death of the author to 70 years. He is also to be supported in his comments that rights owners are increasingly using copyright to hamper creativity in literature and the arts rather than foster it.

Unfortunately, in the extensive discussions and negotiations on copyright matters it is the might (and wealth) of the publishers, broadcasters and other vested interests which swamp the proceedings to the detriment of the interests of the public. Only the library, archives and information community, from the slender resources of its associations, and the British Library speak up for the rights of the reader, viewer and listener.

Here is where the new Government can show its commitment to the freedom of information by ensuring that citizens' rights are given equal consideration with the rights of authors.

Mr Morrison says it is too late now to do anything about it, but is it? Why cannot copyright law be altered back to the 50-year period?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP W. PLUMB
(President, Library Association, 1992;
Chair, Joint Consultative Committee Working Party on Copyright),
52 High Street,
Buntingford, Hertfordshire,
May 20.

A firm stage composer

From Mr Steve Race

Sir, Your reporter Kevin Young writes (earlier editions, May 21): "The composer who has spun vast wealth from reinventing some of the under-appreciated melodies of Haydn, Handel, Purcell, Fauré and Puccini, last night worked a similar miracle..."

Many of us in the musical profession are sick and tired of snide comments in the media about Andrew Lloyd Webber. He is neither Sondheim nor Gershwin, but he is a fine stage composer in the tradition of Lehár, Romberg, Friml and — yes — Ivor Novello: a true theatre man, whose work delights millions of music lovers worldwide.

His one crime is to have made a vast amount of money for himself, for the arts and for Britain. Unforgivable!

Yours faithfully,
STEVE RACE,
Westcott,
Martins End Lane,
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.
May 21.

'Cross of St Patrick'

From Major John FitzGerald

Sir, I have to declare a partial proprietary interest in the fate of the Union Flag (letters, May 21).

That part of the flag, so sadly misnamed St Patrick's cross — the old boy was so busy chasing snakes that he clean forgot to get himself married and thus earn himself a cross — is the Geraldine saltire which was borne on Kildare and Desmond shields from the late 1300s until those families stopped rebelling against the English kings and quarrelling.

A Duke of Leinster in the 18th century allowed The St Patrick's Society to use the saltire in its badge, which is probably why the English, looking for something suitable to complete the Union Flag in 1801, nicked our saltire and mislabelled it.

If the Union Jack is to be re-cast, then can we please have our cross back, Mister?

Yours etc,
JOHN FITZGERALD,
68 Heworth Village, York.
May 21.

Just deserts

From Mr Alan Millard

Sir, Universities cannot be compared to organisations which have a legal duty to provide what they promise ("If I don't get a degree, I'll sue"). The Good University Guide, May 20. A degree, like eternal life, has to be earned. Students who fail to earn their degrees have as much right to sue their universities as I might have if, after a profligate but unrepentant life, I decide to sue Saint Peter for closing the gates.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN MILLARD,
8 Medina Court,
Marine Parade West,
Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire.
May 20.

Images of self

From Mr Derrick Watson

Sir, My wife, a lecturer at a "new" university, is required to complete a self-assessment form as part of her annual appraisal. With a view to advancing her career, I wonder how she should answer the following question: "How effective do you consider the learning strategies that you are in terms of motivating your students?" (sic — no question mark).

Yours faithfully,
DERRICK WATSON,
Rose Cottage,
Market Overton, Rutland.
May 20.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
 The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be in London on May 26. Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex (Major-General Sir Philip Ward) was present at Gatwick Airport, London, this morning upon the arrival of the Governor-General of Barbados and Lady Husbands and welcomed their Excellencies in behalf of the Queen.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
 May 26: The Prince of Wales this morning attended a Service in Canterbury Cathedral to celebrate the One Thousand Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Mission of St Augustine to England and the Foundation of the Cathedral and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Kent (the Lord Kingsdown KG).

His Royal Highness afterwards attended a Luncheon in celebration of the Anniversary of the THATCHED HOUSE LODGE May 26: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, arrived at Narita Airport, Tokyo, this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Ambassador to Japan (His Excellency Sir David Wright).

Today's royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will be present at a reception given by the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association at St James's Palace at 4.30.

The Prince of Wales will open the Priory, Tetbury, Gloucestershire at 10.05.

The Princess Royal will open the SPAR International Conference, Gloucestershire, at 9.00am, as Patron, the National Autistic Society, will open the House School, at 10.00am, at 25 Alcazar Drive, Alton, Cambridgeshire, at 11.15, as President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Remploy, Alton Road, Causewayhead, Strirling, at 12.30; and as Patron, the Butler Trust, will visit Cornton Vale Female Prison, Strirling at 2.00.

Princess Margaret of Hesse and the Rhine

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Princess Margaret of Hesse and the Rhine will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at 4.00pm on Friday, June 20, 1997. All are welcome, and those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets to The Royal Secretary, Room 20, 1 Little Cloister, Westminster Abbey, SW1P 3PL, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted from June 11.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Cornelius Vanderbilt, financier, Stapleton, New York, 1794; Amelia Bloomer, campaigner for women's rights, Homer, New York, 1818; Julia Howe, feminist, writer and reformer, New York, 1819; Wild Bill Hickock, US Marshal, Troy, Illinois, 1837; Arnold Bennett, novelist, Hanley, Staffordshire, 1867; Georges Rouault, Expressionist painter, Paris, 1867; Isadora Duncan, dancer, San Francisco, 1877; Frank Worrell, England and West Indies cricketer, Tonbridge, 1887; Dashiell Hammett, detective story writer, 1894; Sir John Cockcroft, physicist, Nobel laureate 1951, Tordurmen, Yorkshire, 1897; Hubert Humphrey, American Vice-President 1965-69, Wallace, South Dakota, 1911.

DEATHS: Thomas Münzer, Protestant reformer, executed, Mulhausen, Germany, 1525; John Calvin, Protestant reformer, Geneva, 1564; Nicotiano Paganini, composer and violin virtuoso, Nice, 1840; Robert Koch, bacteriologist, Nobel laureate 1905, Baden-Baden, 1910; Sir Joseph Swan, chemist and physicist, Liverpool, on Tuesday 3rd June at 2.30 pm. No flowers please. Donations in lieu to Cambridgeshire Red Cross, Woolpack Yard, Kendal, would be appreciated. Collection, 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OBITUARIES

MERVYN WALL

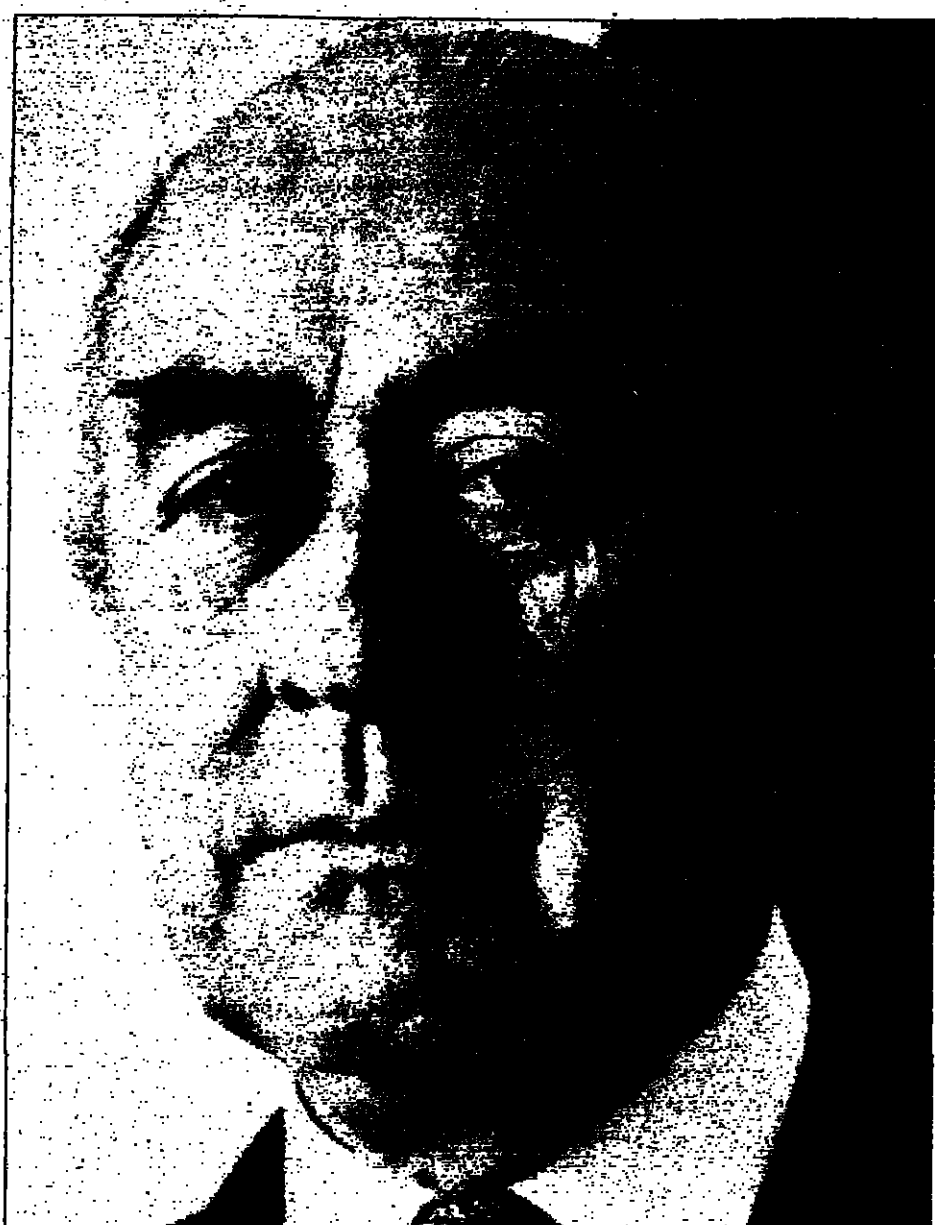
Mervyn Wall, Irish writer and former Secretary of the Irish Arts Council, died in Dublin on May 18 aged 88. He was born there on August 23, 1908.

Mervyn Wall might justly have been described as the elder statesman of Irish letters. He was successively a short story writer, a playwright and a novelist. For almost twenty years he rendered loyal service as secretary of an embattled Irish Arts Council. When in 1969 an exemption from taxation was granted to creative artists resident in the Republic of Ireland, he was the man who decided who qualified as a creative artist.

Born in Dublin, Mervyn Eugene Weply Wall was educated by the Jesuits at their day school, Belvedere, where James Joyce had been a pupil twenty years before. George Dempsey was still the English master. Father Campbell, whom Joyce remembered as "Lantern Jaws", was also still there, spraying the front desk of pupils with saliva and biffing boys who misbehaved or failed to remember their Latin verbs.

It remained a bitter memory for Wall, who was a sensitive soul. He spent two teenage years in Germany, as his parents wanted him to be taught music and thought that he had a talent for painting. After school Wall went to University College Dublin as a medical student, before switching to take an arts degree. He was head of the College Dramatic Society.

Wall's father, a qualified barrister who did not practise, was a member of a Catholic organisation with masonic characteristics called The Knights of St Columbanus. Through contacts made there by his father, the young Wall obtained a post in a quasi-official body called the Agricultural Credit Corporation. His debt to the Knights did not prevent Wall from satirising



them years later in his novel *No Trophies Raise*.

In 1934 Wall became a civil servant working in Dublin Castle and remained there for 14 years. He did not enjoy it especially, but his cautious and fearful ways entered into his soul. If one were to draw a composite Wall hero, one student of his writing remarked, it would be a middle-aged

man with failing powers, an incipient paunch and a poor-paying job of dull drudgery, one of the gentle, unassuming and unsuccessful people who live lives of quiet desperation. This was close to his own self-image.

Work in the Civil Service did not absorb his creative energy. He wrote short stories for magazines such as *Harpers*.

Several of his plays were put on in Dublin's Abbey Theatre; the best known, *Alarm Among the Clerks*, is about life in the Civil Service. In 1946 his first novel, a satirical comedy called *The Unfortunate Fursey*, appeared. Its central figure Fursey is a lay brother in the medieval monastery of Clonmacnoise, who falls victim to a non-aggression pact

between the devil and the clergy and flees to England with a girlfriend.

It was all historical fantasy, but the picture of the devil offering the clergy wealth and immunity from the temptations of sex on condition that they would not lay undue stress on the wickedness of nepotism, drunkenness, perjury and murder had a contemporary echo. A sequel, *The Return of Fursey*, was published in 1948.

In that year Wall departed the Civil Service and became a programme assistant in Radio Eireann. He found this work much more congenial. His novel *Leaves for the Burning* appeared in 1952. It was about four middle-aged men who go on a binge on the way to the poet Yeats's burial and never arrive. It was described as a half-bitter book and portrays an Ireland dominated by Philistines and jobbery. It was translated into Danish and voted the best European novel of the year in Denmark. For all that, neither it nor any of his subsequent work made the same impact as the Fursey books.

In 1957 Wall became secretary of the Arts Council. In the spiteful world of the arts in Dublin this body was inevitably a target for criticism, especially as its authoritarian director, a Jesuit priest, deployed much of its meagre funds indulging his own taste in modern art. Although Wall did not always agree with the council's decision, he had to act as its spokesman. He did so with commendable candour yet with loyalty; one irate critic said he was the "wailing Wall" of a Jesuitical Unionist Arts Council. While there were those who dubbed Wall a stick-in-the-mud bureaucrat, his caution and respect for government probably steered the Arts Council out of trouble on many occasions.

In 1962 he persuaded the Gulbenkian Foundation to fund the arts in Ireland as if it were a Commonwealth country. He masterminded an Arts Council scheme for compas-

sionate grants to artists who had fallen on hard times. And when, in his flamboyant way, Charles Haughey, the Minister for Finance, granted an exemption from tax to creative artists, Wall ensured that the legislation was interpreted liberally when the Revenue privately sought the Arts Council's advice on who should qualify.

The taxmen, who never liked the scheme, thought Wall had opened the floodgates to what one disgruntled critic called "the art nits of Europe". But their efforts to cut it back, by such clumsy measures as denying that history or biography could be creative or original work, led to allegations of discrimination, with much rancour and litigation before a more transparent system was established.

The demands of his post at the Arts Council were such that Wall had little time for his own literary work. He did, however, manage a short history of the Forty Foot bathing place near Joyce's tower in Sandycove, where he himself swam in all seasons and where gentlemen and even priests had, until recently, been able to bathe in naked seduction and safety from women. After his retirement from the Arts Council in 1975 Wall wrote a last novel called *The Hermitage*.

Wall was a kindly, companionable, gossipy man. He was honest and fair in his assessments of other writers and self-effacing about his own contribution. He had considerable comic and satirical gifts, but he was perhaps too considerate and too cautious to give them full rein. His criticism of Irish society was the quiet grumble of the disgruntled bureaucrat and, as such, much more muted and less strident than that of other contemporary Irish writers.

In 1950 he married Fanny Feehan, a music critic, who predeceased him by a few months. He is survived by a son and three daughters.

GERALDINE LACK



Geraldine Lack, CBE, Headmistress of Rosebery School, Epsom, 1946-69, died on May 9 aged 94. She was born on April 3, 1903.

GERALDINE LACK, in her 23 years as Headmistress of Rosebery School, became a household name in Surrey, and was nationally famous wherever educators met. Her influence flowed from the fact that she was "a quite exceptional headmistress and an exceptionally endearing person," as Lord Redcliffe-Maud put it after she had worked with him as the only woman member of the 1966-69 Royal Commission on Local Government in England.

In the sphere of education she became known for her original and innovative ideas both on the role of the sixth form and on the proper nature of general studies. This was why the Ministry of Education gave Rosebery a substantial grant to create a new sixth form block, where her ideas could be put into practice, and from which before long they spread across the whole country.

She insisted that the opening of pupils' minds, the widening of their intellectual horizons and the enriching of their values and tastes were of far greater importance than amassing A-level results — a message which has been fatally lost to education over the past twenty years.

Geraldine Olive Lack, usually known as Gerry, was born in Chow Kia-Kow, Central China, of Australian missionary parents who, after the Boxer Rebellion, were poor but intelligent, resourceful, and well educated; her upbringing gave her a tough mind, a fund of detailed biblical knowledge, confidence that things would "work out all right", a strong religious feeling but no Church commitment.

Educated until she was 17 in mission stations in Honan, and at a boarding school on the coast, which involved three-to-five-day journeys during the civil war, she taught for two years in China before going to Sydney University for her MA (in English) and a Dip Ed.

From Sydney she went to Europe, where she taught at Leeds Girls' High School and travelled widely. A brief return to Sydney in 1938 preceded her becoming head of the English Department at Nottingham High School in 1939 and Headmistress of Ports-

mouth Northern School during the war. She moved to Rosebery in 1946.

There she quickly made a name for herself, enlarging the school, establishing with the help of ministry architects and inspectors the new sixth form block, which soon became a place of pilgrimage for anyone interested in the sixth form curriculum and general studies. And, because her ideas were not only original and progressive but successful, she herself was soon in demand for more public work: the Redcliffe-Maud Local Government Commission, the General Studies Committee of the Schools' Council, the Commonwealth Education Conference of 1964 and the Schools Committee of ITV.

She also lectured in Britain and overseas, the latter activity continuing under the auspices of the British Council well after her retirement in 1969. She eventually returned to settle in Sydney in the late 1970s. She had been appointed CBE for her services to education in 1966.

Geraldine Lack's three most striking characteristics were her natural, smiling cheerfulness, the rapidity of her conversation and the fertility of her ideas. She was a whirlwind of invigorating and refreshing vitality. Her conversation ranged from the flippant to the philosophical. Her reading was phenomenal and omnivorous: she was a happy discussing Karl Popper as Nathalie Sarraute. The range of her other interests was no less remarkable — art (she was a painter as well as a critic); travel (Greece was her favourite country to visit); and gardening (there was never a dead season in her garden and it enchanted her friends as much as herself). Through it all, she found delight in everything good.

She was an educational missionary and pioneer, an academic and a shrewd politician, roles which were all enveloped in good humour and warmth of personality. Her mixture of tolerance, courtesy, infectious enthusiasm, and generosity of spirit made people travel, or ask her to travel, miles to hear her speak.

As a headmistress she had clear objectives, a deep sense of values together with strong principles. She chaired meetings as she drove her car: erratic yet fast, reacting incredibly quickly to obstacles and arriving at a destination which only she regarded as a foregone conclusion.

She remained unmarried.

his wish to be buried in the soil of his native country and in a village churchyard such as this.

Sir Thomas Beecham went on to supply an answer to the question why Delius, a wanderer, and almost an exile, had come back in death to the land of his birth. The England we lived in today, he said, was by no means the England into which Delius was born some 75 years ago. That England provoked the rage of Carlyle, Matthew Arnold, and Ruskin, who preached against the brutality, inhumanity, and insensibility of an age when the country seemed to be given up to the worship of commercial prosperity and to little else. Delius was born in a part particularly odious to men of critical intelligence, the hard, arid, business North of England, and he grew up a rebel. He strove to escape and he did escape.

After speaking of the composer's settlement in France, Sir Thomas referred to the revelation of British character which came with the War when this country "turned its back on the idols of the market place and the counting house and embarked on the greatest adventure in idealism the world had ever known". This, he said, was a revelation to Delius, as it was to the entire world, and it caused him to turn inquiringly towards the shores of his native land.

BRIAN WALSH-ATKINS

Brian Walsh-Atkins, CMG, CVO, former diplomat and General Secretary of the Abbeyfield Society, died on April 28 aged 82. He was born on March 15, 1915.

AFTER retiring early from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Brian Walsh-Atkins used his experience as a senior diplomat to pilot the Abbeyfield Society through a critical period in its history. As its general secretary for nearly five years in the early 1970s, then as a consultant and eventually as vice-chairman, he saw the number of the

society's homes for the elderly double from 500 to 1,000.

Through skilful lobbying in Whitehall he helped to win registration for the society as a housing association and thus to make it eligible for capital grants under the 1974 Housing Act — an achievement worth millions of pounds over the next 20 years or so. Another triumph of his was to secure for those Abbeyfield residents who were eligible the right to full supplementary benefit — thus providing them with some financial comfort. Abbeyfield was the only organisation specifically so designated under the benefit regulations.

But he is remembered most of all by the society as the moving spirit behind *The Lights are Green*, a seminal report which led to changes in its infrastructure and drew up a far-sighted prospectus for the society's future. After retiring as general secretary, he went on to become not only one of Abbeyfield's elder statesmen but deputy chairman of the Federation of Housing Associations — reflecting his standing among the various residential charities. Despite all this, however, Brian Walsh-Atkins still saw himself primarily as a diplomat.

He had been born Leonard

Brian Atkins, the only child of a London actuary who died at the age of 40 when Leonard was only four. His widowed mother then married Geoffrey Walsh of the colonial service, who was an exemplary stepfather, bringing up the boy as his own son; when he was 21 Brian incorporated the name of Walsh into his own surname as a tribute.

By this time he was standing on the threshold of his career. After winning a scholarship to Charterhouse, where he became head boy and played hockey for the school, he won a second scholarship to Hertford College, Oxford, to read Greats.

After sitting the Civil Service entrance exam and coming nearly top of his year, he worked in the India Office until the Second World War. He was then commissioned into the Fleet Air Arm as a navigator.

He nearly lost his life during the Allied landings in North Africa, when the Vichy French opened fire on his aircraft, wounding both the pilot and himself. They managed to land and were taken to a military hospital three days before it was captured by the Americans — who then had the two men stretchered back to Britain.

Walsh-Atkins, who was mentioned in dispatches, spent the rest of the war on the Atlantic convoys, commanding the aircraft in an armed merchant vessel with an improvised flight deck.

Demobilised in 1945 as a lieutenant-commander, he returned to Whitehall and worked in the Burma Office for two years, then in the Commonwealth Relations Office. After serving as counsel in Dublin, 1953-57, he suffered a prolonged spell of ill-health. Returning to his desk, he ran the establishment department, in charge of administration and personnel, before being posted to Pakistan as Deputy High Commissioner in 1959. His appointment as CVO followed a state visit by the Queen during his time there, which lasted until 1961.

He spent most of the 1960s in Whitehall, dealing with economics and defence matters among others, while travelling extensively to East Africa, Australia, Thailand and elsewhere. In 1967 he was seconded to the Civil Selection Board, in charge of the overseas section, before retiring in 1970 as an assistant under-secretary in what had become by this time the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Brian Walsh-Atkins was a clever, extremely able administrator with a gift for writing crisp, clear prose. He had a



short fuse which made him a formidable colleague for those whose standards did not match his own. But he was also a lively conversationalist with a sharp sense of humour. He was an accomplished pianist with a deep love of music — including Gilbert and Sullivan. But his chief recreation was sailing. He kept a boat on the Blackwater estuary in Essex and frequently crossed the North Sea in it to Holland. A founder mem-

ber of the Civil Service Sailing Association, he personally designed the association's burgee, which shows an anchor fouled by red tape. After his first marriage was dissolved, Brian Walsh-Atkins married in 1969 Margaret Lady Runcorn, widow of Lord Runcorn, who had sat in the Commons as Dennis Vosper. He is survived by her and by three sons from his first marriage.

DELIUS AT REST

BURIAL IN A SURREY CHURCHYARD FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LIMPFIELD, May 26

Nearly a year after the death in France of Frederick Delius, the Yorkshire-born composer, his body was committed today to a last resting place in the quiet churchyard of Limpfield, in Surrey. Delius for the greater part of his life was an exile, but he died with the wish that he should be buried in English soil and with surroundings such as have been found for him.

The coffin was brought to Limpfield from Grez-sur-Loing, near Fontainebleau, yesterday by Mr. Eric Fenby, the companion to whom the composer dictated much of his music. Mrs. Delius had left for England on Thursday to be present at the re-burial, but severe illness prevented her attendance today.

The service in the centuries old church was brief and simple. The rector read passages from the Burial Service, and a Lesson taken from the Second Epistle to the Corinthians. The congregation joined in the Lord's Prayer, and this was followed by Collects. The orchestra, comprising strings, wood, wind and harp, then played "Summer Night on the River," the serenade from "Hassan," an elegy with violoncello solo and "On Hearing the

ON THIS DAY

May 27, 1935

In 1929, Becham organised six concerts of the music of Delius at which the composer, although paralysed, was present. Eric Fenby, his amanuensis for a number of years and author of Delius as I knew him, died early this year.

First Cuckoo in Spring." Sir Thomas Becham conducted three of the numbers, and Mr. Paul Beard the elegy.

When the musicians had made their tribute the congregation passed out of the church to the graveside and stood in silence while the rector recited the committal sentences. Crumpled earth was dropped on the coffin, and then Sir Thomas Becham walked to the head of the grave and spoke of the character of Delius and his place in the future of music. "We are here to-day," he said, "to bid farewell to the mortal remains of Frederick Delius, a great Englishman and a famous man. It was

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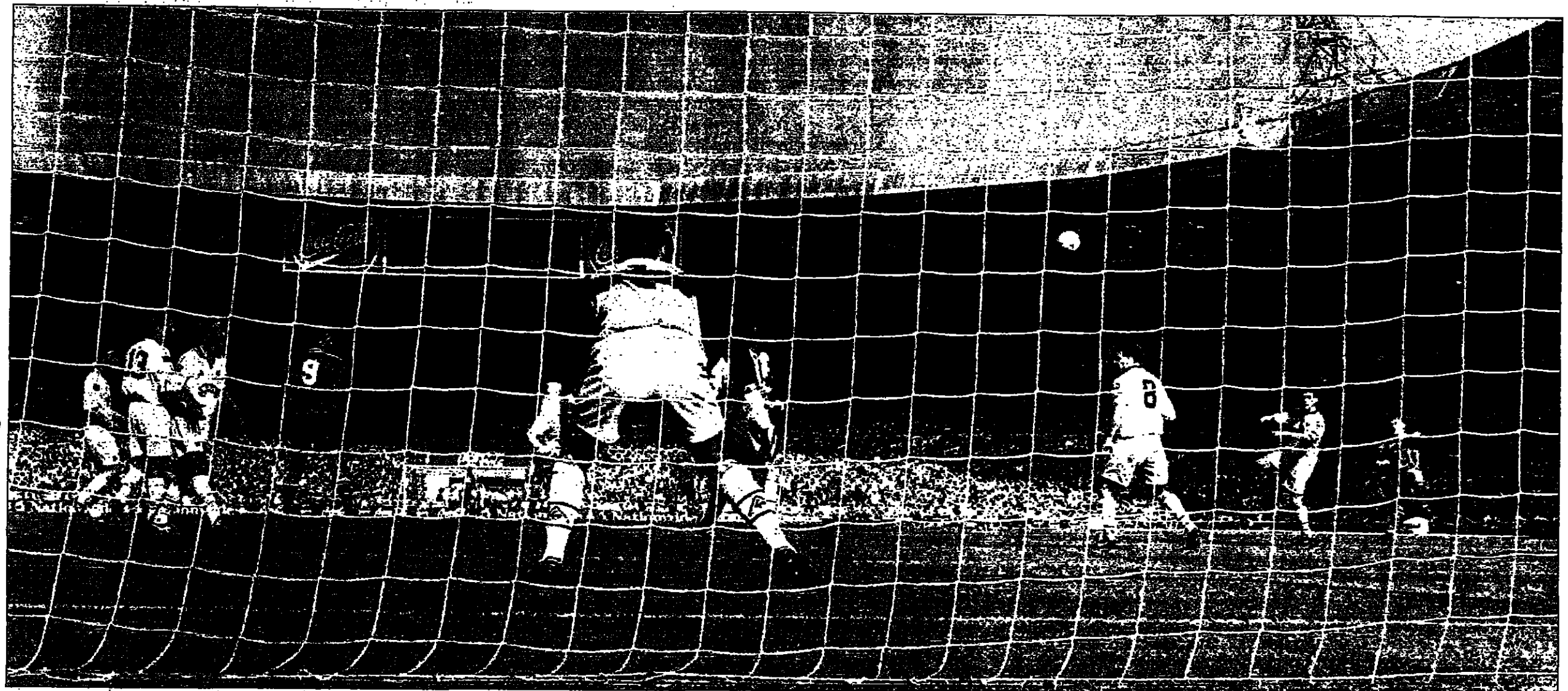


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TUESDAY MAY 27 1997

Last-minute goal leaves South London club celebrating return to Premiership



Glad tidings: Hopkin, having spotted Tracey off his line, curls in the winning goal for Crystal Palace in the last minute of the first division play-off final against Sheffield United at Wembley yesterday. Photograph: Darren Walsh

Hopkin finishes Palace restoration

Crystal Palace1
Sheffield United0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

A YEAR ago, Crystal Palace endured the most excruciating defeat in their first division play-off final against Leicester City. In the final minute of extra time, Steve Claridge scored the goal that sentenced them to another term of drudgery outside the FA Cup Premiership.

Yesterday, on their return to Wembley, it was glorious pay-back time. With a minute remaining against Sheffield United, David Hopkin, the Palace captain, glided in the goal that takes his club back into the big league for the third time in eight seasons.

It is a goal worth millions. £10 million, by conservative estimates. Membership of the Premiership can be measured in such figures and beyond. Whether Palace are ready for it and can cope, or whether they will continue their yo-yo existence between the leagues, is a moot point.

However, as the players and officials filed to the tunes of *Glad All Over* and *The Only Way Is Up*, it was perhaps not an appropriate moment to cloud their elation with stark realism. After the abject misery of 12 months earlier, and

an admittedly uninspiring 90 minutes, they deserved their moment of pleasure.

For Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, it concluded a remarkable turnaround in fortunes. He arrived at the club only in late February, not long after his abortive 33-day tenure at Manchester City, which he left for "health" reasons.

Not surprisingly, his reacquaintance with a pressure-cooker environment, the Premiership, was furthest from his mind. "I don't really want to think about that at the moment," he said. "I don't want to spoil a nice day."

Howard Kendall, the United manager, had also overcome personal trauma, after his unhappy 79-day stay at Notts County. He, too, had re-emerged with distinction but, unlike Coppell, there was to be no happy ending. "We're all very down," he said. "We've just got to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and start again next season."

It had been an occasion, on the last day of the domestic season, that had promised so much, played under a stony, almost cloudless sky and in an old stadium heaving with the 32,000 supporters of United, bedecked in black, red and white, and a similar number in the blue-and-red of Palace. As the teams walked out, to

the raucous accompaniment of Oasis and an equally loud display of glittering pyrotechnics, the stage was set.

Sadly, there were few other fireworks in a drab first half, the tone having been lowered shortly before kick off when too many Palace fans declined to observe the minute's silence for Alan Laver, the United president, who had died the previous week. Sensibly, Neale Barry, the referee, swiftly curtailed what was supposed to be a 60-second tribute before it became embarrassing.

What followed was barely appetising, either, with United's early up-and-at-tem tactics reducing the spectacle to no more than a disjointed mess. Palace were not much better, with Hopkin, a usually influential figure in midfield, restricted to feeding off the merest scraps of possession.

"We appeared to cancel each other out," Kendall later observed. "It was always going to be a lucky break or a set-piece that decided it."

Long breaks further fractured the play, as Hutchinson, twice, Holdsworth and Linighan received treatment. Hutchinson's first injury resulted from the only decent shot of the half, which Roberts volleyed powerfully towards goal. It would have gone in

had Hutchinson not got his head in the way, for which he paid dearly. Although he eventually recovered his senses, he retired heavily in the interval after falling heavily in a challenge with Taylor, his team-mate, and Linighan.

United replaced Katchourou after only 25 minutes, Kendall believing that the Belarus international did not have the physical presence to trouble Linighan. He brought on Taylor, a former Palace player, and the effect, though not instant, gradually proved successful.

In the second half, with United at last producing a semblance of imagination and innovation, Fortoit roved intelligently, setting up a good chance for Taylor that was only denied by the crunching tackle of Tuttle. Yet for all their efforts, United rarely troubled Nash, the Palace goalkeeper. Tuttle, Edworthy and Linighan formed a protective barrier around him that would have shamed Fort Knox. As the game wore on and extra time, or even penalties, began to loom large, Palace asserted a modicum of authority.

Dyer controlled Muscat's cross superbly but woefully mis-hit his shot; Shipperley headed wastefully wide from Rodger's corner; and then another effort from Dyer, an

overhead kick, thumped into Tracey's sideneeting. From a low centre by Dyer, as the final whistle approached, Tracey only gathered the ball after an undignified scramble in his six-yard area.

With a minute left, Hopkin seized on the opportunity presented by Tiler's weak header from Rodger's cross. He looked up, spotted Tracey marginally off his line and curled in a delightful 20-yard

shot for his seventeenth goal of the season. Justice, in the Palace minds, had been seen to be done; the ghosts of 1990 had been exorcised. Roll on the Premiership.

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-5-2): C Nash — D Tuttle, M Edworthy, A Linighan — I Muscat, A Roberts, D Holdsworth, S Rodger, D Gordon — N Shipperley, B Dyer.

SHEFFIELD UNITED (3-5-2): S Tracey — D Holdsworth, C Tiler, R Nelson — D White, D Hutchinson (sub: L Sandford, 45min), N Spackman (sub: A Walker, 90), M Ward, D Westhouse — P Katchourou (sub: G Taylor, 25), J A Fyfe.

Referee: N Barry



Hopkin, left, and Ray Houghton, his Palace colleague, savour victory

Woosnam finds himself back in the swing



By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Ian Woosnam is on form, his swing looks so simple and powerful that he makes a complicated game appear easy. At his best, he has everything: power, courage, vision and touch. "His swing is so oily," Bob Torrance, Sam's father and a noted analyst, has said.

For some weeks, Woosnam's swing has been approaching its oily best and so it was no surprise that, having held a one-stroke lead after 54 holes, Woosnam's courage, in the face of some fierce competition from Nick Faldo and Ernie Els, was sufficient for him to win the Volvo PGA Championship by two strokes.

Woosnam, 70, finished 13 under par and his reward, as well as £183,000, is to find himself top of both the Order of Merit and the Ryder Cup points table. His chipping saved him from time to time in the fourth round, just as, briefly, his putting seemed to have deserted him at the start, but in the end it was his experience and fortitude

that saw him home. He was over par on only four holes all week.

Darren Clarke, with a 71, was tied on 11 under par with Nick Faldo and Ernie Els, both of whom had closing rounds of 70, while Colin Montgomerie leaped up the field to ten under par after the round of the day, a 64, one shot outside the Wentworth course record. It has not been a very good season for Montgomerie, but in the past seven days he has played outstandingly well in a matchplay event and very well, for three rounds, here. His problem is a lack of consistency. Perhaps these performances are signs that he is regaining it.

Throughout a glorious afternoon, which saw record crowds of more than 20,000 spectators, the lead changed hands time and again as the pressure that good players impose on one another and the difficulties of the course took their toll. This is the way that an important championship such as this should end — with Europe's best golfers fighting it out down the closing holes of a great course.

Clarke was the odd man out. He was surrounded by experienced players who have won at least one major championship. At 28, he was always the least likely to win and, though he held the lead for four holes, he had it snatched from him by Woosnam on the 12th and then squandered strokes on the 13th and 15th. Clarke has nothing about which to reproach himself. He has won a place the Ryder

Cup team after finishing third, seventh, twelfth and now joint-second in his past four tournaments.

Neither Faldo nor Els could hold enough putts to pressurise Woosnam. They needed to birdie both the last two holes, at least, but could not do so. Els hit a bad shot on the 17th. Faldo was fortunate to get a par at this hole. Though Els's delicate chip from the fringe of the 18th popped into the hole and then out again, even a three would

not have been good enough. It was too late by then.

When José María Olazábal returned from his 18-month layoff at the end of February, he said that he was as worried about his form as he was about his feet. It did not take him long to realise that he did not need to worry about his striking of the ball. That was razor-sharp from the moment he teed off in Dubai. Several pros watched him hit practice balls there and said the same thing: "It doesn't look as though he has been away."

Now, after nine rounds in 12 days, he should believe that his feet are less of a worry than they were a few weeks ago, too. This means that the physical demands of Ryder Cup week can be met without too much difficulty.

But at Wentworth, and not for the first time at this club, the day belonged to Woosnam. One of the shortest men in professional golf, he collected one of the biggest trophies. "Wentworth fetches the best out of the best players," he said, adding with a grin: "It is nice to be winning tournaments coming up to 40."

Rub of the green 25
Final scores 25

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TENNIS: SAMPRAS SEEKS ELUSIVE GRAND-SLAM TITLE AS YOUNG AMERICAN MAKES HER MARK

Sorry Rusedski makes an early exit

FROM ROB HUGHES IN PARIS

UNDER a perfect azure Paris sky, the temperature rising, day one of the French Open gave us a beguiling first performance in a grand-slam event by Venus Williams, the 16-year-old American, then a touch of Pete Sampras's supreme tennis, but alas, from Greg Rusedski, further proof that Britons, even those who are adopted, are somewhat mesmerised by red clay.

Rusedski tried. Against his own early form, untroubled, he was to say, by his recent wrist injury, he roused some defiance against Magnus Norman, of Sweden, so that he stretched that match to 3hr 5min before finally surrendering 4-7 in the fifth set. Rusedski battled both himself and the opponent, who will be 21 on Friday. From two sets



Rusedski: early defeat

down, he hauled himself back into the match; from three games down at the start of the final set, he again spiritedly came back and was finally undone by missing a relatively easy volley.

In truth, Rusedski's exit was at the hands of one of those rising Swedes, phlegmatic in appearance and as athletic as his 6ft 2in frame and inheritance from a family of sporting competitors demands. "I was too tentative for those first two sets," Rusedski said. "It was only when I got a little upset at myself and then started to be more aggressive that I came into it. I must learn to start aggressively."

A little simplistic, perhaps, because Rusedski, though familiar with American clay in his boyhood, treated the surface as if it were alien. He was mastered from the back of the

court by Norman and his own forehand was weak by comparison to the searing forehand ripostes that came back at him like tracer bullets.

"One down, one to go," a laconic American observer opined to the British press corps, but watching the match, Tim Henman, now the last hope for Britain, has the vote of Rusedski at least to prolong our interest. "On Court No 2, I fancy Henman to take you a little further than I managed," Rusedski, who remains keen to persuade Henman to join him as a doubles pairing before Britain's Davis Cup match in Ukraine, said. Henman faces Olivier Delaite, a French wild-card entrant, today.

Anything but wild was the serene form of Sampras on Centre Court yesterday afternoon. After suffering a groin strain recently, he was expected to be troubled by Fabrice Santoro, of France. Instead, in straight sets and in less than two hours, Sampras progressed 6-3, 7-5, 6-1, looking like a player capable of completing his set of the tennis jewels. Roland Garros is the final piece; clay is the one surface that has been Sampras's undoing, but now, if the Spanish red-court specialists do not peak, Sampras can imprint his true class.

And so to Venus. How hypnotic the girl looked, in her shimmering silver outfit, the white pearls in her hair making her ringlets dance and glisten beneath the sun. As Jehovah is her witness — and she was raised to believe in that — this child of California seems to fear nothing on the rich side of the tennis tracks. Yesterday, she played Naoko Sawamatsu, a Japanese competitor revisiting Paris for the eighth time and a university graduate whose mother and grandmother played top-class tennis.

Inevitably, the tenacity of the Japanese woman troubled Williams, though principally in the second set of a contest that lasted 2hr 39min. Williams had taken the first set 6-2, lost the second on the tie-break and then steadied herself to triumph 7-5 in the third. By then, Sawamatsu had a blister on her foot and had a fair idea of the power and reach of the 6ft American teenager. "She has a very big serve, very good ground strokes and a great mentality,"



Williams made quite an impact with her eye-catching appearance and winning performance yesterday

Sawamatsu said. "When I made a lob, she was so tall that I couldn't make it. I tried it twice and then I began thinking how physical she is going to be."

Physical and exotic. When she comes to Wimbledon, Williams says she may dress her braids in green and purple. "Those are the colours of Wimbledon, no?" she asked. Williams represented precocity in its most appealing guise. She played the more experienced opponent off the court, has begun to tour the French capital's restaurants with her similarly-clad younger sister, Serena, and her mother and explains the absence of her father, coach, manager and mentor, Richard Williams, thus: "He hasn't come because he said he wasn't going to start a second career as a parent in the stands, his head going this

way and that. I don't want him to do anything he doesn't want to do."

She stayed on the court for 15 minutes signing autographs and posing for photographs. Then, facing the media, she became a playful kitten. First answer, no. Second answer, yes. Third answer: "I thought this is a real nice stadium."

Williams then became garulous, smiling through the rough questions, musing on her own inner thoughts of this first grand-slam event and thanking the guys for asking their questions.

Bud Collins, the doyen of American commentators, suggested to her: "When you get to the Louvre, don't forget to see the Venus." She smiled and said: "Do they have torture instruments there?" Beguiling, indeed.

Reynolds poses tall order for Lewis

A CLASSIC encounter is in prospect when Adey Lewis, the British flyweight champion, from Bury, meets Mark Reynolds, of Sudbury, at the Marriott Hotel, Mayfair tonight (Sikumar Sen writes). Lewis, 22, is 4ft 10in. Reynolds, 27, 5ft 6in: the champion likes to fight, the challenger is a competent boxer, both have had 12 bouts and while Lewis has an unbeaten record, Reynolds has been beaten twice and drawn twice. The draw against Rowan Williams does not flatter the challenger, as Williams is a light puncher.

The 7in height difference that Reynolds has could cause problems for Lewis if Reynolds can stay up on his toes and keep away from the champion's damaging blows. Lewis's technique against taller men seems to be an effective one, for he has stopped nine of his opponents, but against Keith Knox, of Scotland, Lewis had to work all the way. Knox had a height advantage of 4in. Reynolds has replaced Peter Cusshaw Lewis's original opponent, who is injured.

Rain halts Indy 500

MOTOR RACING: The delayed 81st Indianapolis 500 began badly yesterday — a day late — with an accident before the start. Several cars retired with blown engines and rain then stopped the race after 15 laps, during which time Tony Stewart, of the United States, had established an early lead. The three-car accident came on the fourth turn as the drivers were preparing to take the green flag.

Britons unmoved

TENNIS: Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, the leading two British players, have not moved positions in the latest ATP world rankings, issued yesterday, despite a combination of injuries and recent poor results. Henman remains at No 17 and Rusedski at No 41 and, despite Rusedski's defeat in Paris yesterday, he will not lose any points because of his poor performance at the French Open last year.

Jones retains title

GOLF: Rosie Jones, right, became the first player to defend the 1996 Corning Classic, successfully rolling in a 50th birdie putt on the first play-off hole at Corning, New York, on Sunday to defeat Tammie Green, her fellow American. Green had led by four strokes when the round began, but Jones registered a seven-under par 65 to force the play-off. Helen Dolsow had a 67 to finish one shot off the play-off on 278.



Labegorce on a high

POLO: Labegorce, the team of Hubert Perrodo, carried off the high-goal Duke of Sutherland's Cup at Cowdray Park, Sussex, yesterday with a 12-7 victory against Kerry Packer's Ellerslie White. This match also counted as a league game for Cirencester Park's high-goal Warwickshire Cup.

Frost denies Woods

GOLF: David Frost, of South Africa, denied Tiger Woods a third successive victory with a closing round of 67 for a total of 265, 15 under par, in the Colonial tournament in Fort Worth, Texas, on Sunday night. David Ogilvy shared second place with Brad Faxon on 13 under par, while Woods finished 12 under par and had to settle for a share of fourth with Paul Goydos.

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HOW TO APPLY

Each household can apply for up to four return tickets but for each ticket you must have one completed application form plus 10 differently numbered tokens. Token 14 appears below and an application form appears right. You will receive a fulfilment pack with full booking details. Please do not call Virgin Trains or make inquiries at rail stations until you receive your pack.

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Today's hand is from the 1996 Olympiad. Tony Forrester confessed to having misplayed it. I have changed the East-West cards to demonstrate how his line might have been punished.

Dealer South	Game all	IMP's
♠ 10 9 8 7 ♥ 10 9 7 ♦ K 5 ♣ K 9 5 3	♠ 10 2 ♥ A J 8 6 3 2 ♦ Q 8 3 ♣ 8 6	
♠ 9 8 7 ♥ 10 9 7 ♦ K 5 ♣ K 9 5 3	♠ 10 2 ♥ A J 8 6 3 2 ♦ Q 8 3 ♣ 8 6	
♠ 9 8 7 ♥ 10 9 7 ♦ K 5 ♣ K 9 5 3	♠ 10 2 ♥ A J 8 6 3 2 ♦ Q 8 3 ♣ 8 6	

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: ten of hearts

(1) Game-forcing in the Forrester-Robson system. East took the king of hearts with the ace and returned the jack of hearts, declarer (Forrester) discarding a diamond with dummy's queen winning. Forrester recognised that drawing trumps would leave him in difficulties if both black suits broke badly, so played the ace and jack of clubs. On the lay-out shown above, that would have led to defeat — West wins the club and plays a third round, enabling the defence to make two trump tricks. Drawing three rounds of trumps first is no better. If declarer follows with ace and another club, West ducks and declarer is out of control.

The play that succeeds against all distributions in which the black suits are no worse than 4-2 is to play the jack of clubs at trick three. If West takes it and plays a heart, declarer ruffs, unblocks the ace of clubs, draws three rounds of trumps and plays winning clubs. If West ducks the jack of clubs, declarer cashes the ace, draws three rounds of trumps and plays on clubs. In practice both black suits were 3-3 so Forrester's error didn't cost.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

LETHOLOGICA
a. Works by Aristotle
b. Forgetfulness
c. Deadly logic

HUMICUBATION
a. Lying
b. Hatching eggs
c. A scolding

ONERABLE
a. That can be weighed
b. Taxable
c. Tiresome

Answers on page 41

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Short falls

Nigel Short, Britain's top-ranked player, stumbled in the second round of the elite tournament in Madrid when he lost a long dour struggle to the Bulgarian grandmaster Veselin Topalov. After two rounds in the tournament the sole lead was held by the Spanish (formerly Latvian) grandmaster Alexei Shirov with a 100 per cent record.

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Nigel Short
Madrid, May 1997

Ray Lopez

1. ♠4 a5
2. ♠N3 ♠c6
3. ♠b5 a6
4. ♠a4 ♠N8
5. ♠d4 ♠b7
6. ♠f1 ♠d8
7. ♠b8+ ♠d7
8. ♠d4 ♠c6
9. ♠N4+ ♠b7
10. ♠c3 0-0
11. ♠N3 ♠c5
12. ♠N5 ♠d6
13. ♠e5 ♠d6
14. ♠N6 ♠d6
15. ♠f4 ♠b5
16. ♠f1 ♠d6
17. ♠c3 ♠c6
18. ♠N3 0-0
19. ♠N6 ♠b6
20. ♠N5 ♠d6
21. ♠f1 ♠c6
22. ♠b3 ♠c6
23. ♠b3 ♠c6
24. ♠N3 ♠c5
25. ♠b3 ♠c6
26. ♠N4 ♠d6
27. ♠N4 ♠d6
28. ♠f1 ♠c6
29. ♠b3+ ♠d6

Black resigns

After 69... h3, 70 f7 h2, 71 ♠Q h1, 72 ♠g8, Kh5, 73 ♠h7+ wins the black queen.

CORRECTION: Yesterday's game diagram should have shown a black queen instead of a black rook on h6.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Black to play. This position is from the game Vaganian — Gallagher, Fide 1997.

White was planning his own knight here. After 1... Ne7 2 Qxd4 Kd7 3 Ng5+ he will have a winning position. However, Black found a better idea than retreating the knight. What did he play?

Solution on page 41

RUGBY LEAGUE: SUPER LEAGUE TAILENDERS FIGHT BACK TO RESCUE POINT AGAINST LEEDS

Castleford deserve musical plaudits

Castleford Tigers 30
Leeds Rhinos 30

By Christopher Irvine

THE *Hallelujah Chorus* and the *1812 Overture* belted out over the Tannoy in celebration of a precious point for Castleford yesterday. Although still rooted to the bottom of the Super League, their predicament will surely ease if this fighting display at Wheldon Road acts as a benchmark.

For Leeds, it was a point lost. They coasted for long periods and paid the penalty for imagining that a 30-18 lead was sufficient to see out the last ten minutes. Castleford had already demonstrated how dangerous they could be, with two tries in quick succession through the half.

Since taking over as coach last month, Stuart Raper has

provided fluid direction and a try beneath the posts after 76 minutes that left Crooks with a simple conversion to level the scores. Subsequently, Iestyn Harris was wide with a dropped goal attempt for Leeds and was twice closed down in added time as he shaped up to try again.

Graham Steadman, 33, the Castleford stand-off half, who revels in his standing as the senior player in the Super League, was nothing less than sprightly as he race on to Russell's pass and straightened up to go under the posts for Castleford's first try.

Crooks added the second of his four goals, but the good work was undone as Farrell broke through the line and showed good pace for a forward in a 40-metre run in which he beat Flower, the Castleford full back.

When Harris, the architect of three Leeds tries, began to run the show in midfield, the best of Castleford looked to be over. Blackmore barged Ford out of his path for a try against his former club and then his slipped pass brought another for Sterling.

After Morley's try in the 47th minute, Leeds thought they could relax. When St Hilaire hacked aimlessly at a clearance and Critchley kicked on to it to score his first try, it seemed like a minor irritation. His second had the alarm bells ringing.

Yorke McDermott had extended the lead to 12 points with a try before Castleford staged their grandstand finish. Orr surged up the middle and freed Flowers for a try before, four minutes later, he dummied the hesitant cover and plunged over.

SCORES: Castleford: Tries: Critchley (2), Steadman, Flowers, Orr, Goals: Crooks (4). Leeds: Tries: Farrell, Blackmore, Sterling, Morley, McDermott, Goals: Harris (3), Holroyd (2). CASTLEFORD TIGERS: J. Flowers, J. Steadman, M. Ford, D. Simpson, R. Russell, L. Crooks, A. Scriv, L. Conkie, B. Tait, B. Hogg, D. Orr, S. Richardson, D. Edwards, L. Barrowclough. LEEDS RHINOS: M. St Hilaire, P. Sterling, R. Blackmore, R. Harris, J. Curran, J. Harris, G. Holroyd, M. Maasala, W. Collins, R. McDermott, A. Morley, A. Farrell, G. Mercer, S. Sutcliffe, R. Sheridan, J. Maitland, A. Hey, R. Shaw (Widfield).

Results and league tables.....Page 25

instilled organisation and now back into the Castleford side. "We were 2-0 down at one stage, but we never gave up. This was the most pleasing aspect," the Australian said.

The real winners were Bradford Bulls. Of all their pursuers, Leeds, who have yet to meet them in the League, seem best equipped to resist them back. Now, at Halifax tonight, they have the opportunity to stretch their lead to seven points.

Leeds' attack of defensive collywobles allowed Castleford back into a match that looked way beyond rescue when Adrian Morley surged over the line for the fourth of the Rhinos' five tries early in the second half. Yet, rather than being overawed, Castleford clawed their way back, due in no small measure to the introduction of the hooker, Danny Orr, after 50 minutes.

From acting half back, Orr



Mercer, the Leeds forward, is pinned by a flying tackle from Vowles as he attempts to hand-off Chapman

Paul makes quick return for Bulls

By Christopher Irvine

A RAPID rehabilitation, three weeks after he was injured in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final defeat by St Helens, means that Robbie Paul is available for Bradford Bulls tonight when they look to consolidate their big lead in the Super League against Halifax Blue Sox at Thrum Hall.

Damaged ligaments in his foot had been expected to take up to six weeks to repair, but Paul has responded well to intensive treatment and is expected to resume his half-back partnership with

Graeme Bradley, who returns from a one-match suspension.

Halifax were the last team to beat Bradford in a league game. Last August, The Bulls have since won 12 successive Super League matches, a record they share with St Helens. Paul's quick recovery is an important boost for Bradford, less than two weeks before the start of their world club championship campaign, at home to Peartree Panthers.

Kelvin Skerrett, the former Great Britain prop, who broke an arm in the league defeat at Bradford five weeks ago, has had his comeback

delayed until Halifax's home game against St Helens on Sunday.

Wayne Jackson suffered a thigh muscle injury in the victory away to Sheffield Eagles last Friday, but he is expected to retain his place in the front row.

Andy Northey, the St Helens forward, missed the match against Wigan Warriors last night at the start of his four-match suspension for using his knees in a tackle on Martin Offiah, of London Broncos. The severity of the sentence prompted an accusation of bias against the Rugby Football League (RFL) disciplinary committee by Tom

Ellard, the St Helens vice-chairman, who called for the committee to be scrapped.

"In my opinion, there appears to be a spiteful and vindictive vendetta being waged against the St Helens players whenever they appear at Red Hall," he said.

"The present disciplinary procedures should ultimately be replaced by a fixed penalty system, as in soccer. Then we will never have a repeat of the justice so heavily imposed on Bobbie Goulding [banned for eight matches, reduced to six on appeal]. What's next for St Helens players - capital punishment?"

MOTOR SPORT

Blunders distract attention from Menu

By Mark Fogarty

LEADING touring car drivers have expressed grave concerns about the poor standards of organisation and officiating at the *Auto Trader* British Touring Car Championship after a series of errors and incidents at Oulton Park over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Yesterday's ninth and tenth rounds of the series, both won easily by Alain Menu, the championship leader, were marred by mistakes by officials and by their slow response to serious accidents.

The drivers' frustration peaked in the first 27-lap, 43.2-mile race when the chequered flag, which denotes the finish of an event, was waved a lap after the actual end, causing confusion.

Menu and his Renault team-mate, Jason Plato, slowed down after they crossed the finish line after what they believed was the last lap, only to have to speed up again when they noticed the flag had not been shown.

The following Audi A4s of Frank Biela, the defending champion, and John Bingle also slowed on what they thought was the slow-down lap, only to be passed by the Volvo S40 of Rickard Rydell.

"I didn't see a flag, so I radioed the team to ask them what was happening," Rydell said. "They told me to keep going. It was the officials who made the mistake and I didn't get third place after all."

The drivers called for urgent talks with the motor sport clubs which conduct the meetings. Against this backdrop of dissent and dissatisfaction, Menu's modest, to what now seems to be his inevitable crowning as this year's touring car champion after finishing runner-up for the past three years.

SAILING

Rivals bow to extra speed of Smith

By Edward Gorman

LAWRIE SMITH, who took a couple of rounds to warm up last year, began the *Frontier* Ultra 30 Grand Prix this year in impressive form, winning the first event at Portsmouth with a race to spare yesterday. Smith, sailing *Frontier*, beat his old rival, Russell Peters, on *DBS*, into second place by four points.

Smith's main focus this year is his Silk Cut Whitbread round-the-world race campaign and he had only one day of practice on the Ultra before racing started on Saturday. Nevertheless, he found that his extra speed he developed at the end of last season is still giving him an edge over Peters and the other skippers in the field. Smith claimed three first places and four second places, plus a fourth in the last race, which was won by Roger Yeoman, on *Save & Prosper*.

"It's good to have a close bite of racing to keep your hand in," Smith said, putting his win down to good crew work plus new sails installed halfway through last season.

Going into the last day yesterday, Smith had a lead of five points over Peters. Sailing in a steady breeze of 18-20 knots as the sea breeze lifted in, Glynn Charles, on *United Airlines*, led from start to finish in race six, with Smith settling for second.

In the next race, Smith got away up the first buoy. Charles looked to be following up his first win with a second place, but a poor spinnaker hoist enabled Peters to catch him downwind. In the final contest, Yeoman was the surprise winner, with Charles, who was making his return to the Ultra Grand Prix after a year's absence, second to finish third overall.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TEN BANK HOLIDAY MEETINGS

Sandown Park

Going: good to firm, good in places.
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Persian Punch earns Gold Cup shot

Whitsun Cup. The lightly raced four-year-old passed half the field up the straight to win going away and looks sure to make a bold show in the Royal Hunt Cup.

Karen Fallon was on the mark in the EBF Golden Fillies' Stakes when he partnered Kilcrao to a battling victory over the odds-on Folklore, ridden by Denton.

Fallon later confirmed that he will appeal against the ten-day ban imposed by Italian stewards on Sunday, which could prevent him riding Reams Of Verse in the Oaks on Friday week. The Bank Holiday has hindered attempts to start the appeal procedure straight away, but the agent, David Pollington, said, "I will lodge an appeal with the Italian Jockey Club, but we want to speak to Michael Caulfield and the Jockey Club here first."

Hern switched to new stables at Kingswood Stud, the property of Sheikh Hamdan's Shadwell Estates, near Lambourn, early in 1991. Since the move, Hern continued the flow of winners and Harayir landed the 1995 1,000 Guineas.

JOCKEYS: P. Carberry, 8 winners from 35 rides, 30.8%, N Bentley 15 from 50, 30.0%, P. Hines, 22 from 96, 22.9%, T Reed, 20 from 112, 17.9%, R Gandy, 10 from 67, 14.9%; A Thornton, 10 from 71, 14.1%.

Border raid ruled out for captain Johnson

Palmer were all winners yesterday in their last events before the championship.

In the Giro d'Italia yesterday, Mario Cipollini of Italy, gained his fourth stage victory, again just beating his fellow countryman, Edoardo Zanzi, to the finish line.

Cipollini, who has made a habit out of winning closing sprints, added the tenth leg to wins in the first, second and fourth. He has 20 Giro d'Italia stage wins to his credit in all.

Most of the riders finished close behind: and Pavel Tonkov, of Russia, the defending champion, retained the leader's pink jersey.

Today is a rest day.

تكملة من الأصل

CRICKET: BROTHERS WHO HAVE LIFTED ENGLISH GAME PREPARE FOR CHALLENGE OF BENSON AND HEDGES CUP QUARTER-FINAL

Holioakes must wait before step up to Test arena

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

A SUBLINEAR sunny Bank Holiday bereft of cricket was a profound waste of the spirit of euphoria after England's one-day exploits, but the youth of the country may, at least, have felt a new affinity with the game. In many thousands of make-up matches on beach and parkland yesterday, the Holioake brothers will have been the subject of the sincerest form of flattery.

Adam and Ben are, of course, the stuff of boyhood dreams. They have talent, looks and that indefinable thing called "attitude". They might have tumbled straight from the surf-sprayed episodes of an Australian soap opera but for the fact that they are presently infuriating that country of their birth by the natural, unaffected aggression of their cricket.

The Holioakes have done their bit to give England an uplifting start to the Ashes summer. So too have the selectors who chose them and the captain and coach who supported them. From a patriotic viewpoint, things could hardly have begun better.

At the risk of being thought churlish, however, it is important not to be carried away by the events of recent days. England have worked hard on their one-day game and selected a specific squad for the assignment. Australia, underprepared for such an onslaught and undecided in too many important areas, were swept away.

When the five-day cricket begins next week, different criteria will apply to selection. Rightly so. It is no good

complaining that England have never taken one-day cricket seriously and then, when they do so with distinction, believing they should be foolish enough to apply the same rules and personnel to Test cricket. It just does not work.

Ben Holioake will certainly not be included in the first Test, for all the fervent wishes of those who relished his thrilling debut innings at Lord's. There is also no guarantee that a place as a specialist batsman — which is what he must contest — immediately awaits his elder brother. Adam accepts as much, though he would be decidedly

Cowan are making a significant impression.

It is five years since Essex last won a trophy, too long for the liking of the supporters who will pack their compact and well-appointed ground today. But for last-eight opponents, they would ideally have chosen differently. They don't come much tougher than Surrey, the Essex captain, Paul Frith, admitted.

Surrey are the best team in England on paper. So far, they have signally failed to show it in the championship, where they have not come close to winning any of their four games, but one-day cricket is their proven territory.

They provided four players — the Holioakes, Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe — to England's Texaco Trophy party; Essex, unusually, supplied none. It ought not to be so one-sided today, but I fancy Essex are going to need the belated igniting of Gooch's season if they are to withstand Surrey's capacity to make light of the most forbidding target. Whatever the result, a mouthwatering game is in prospect.

Yorkshire, who threatened to win all three one-day competitions last summer but ended up with none, ought to proceed to another semi-final at the expense of Northamptonshire, whose form has been patchy. Yorkshire are at full strength in their own conditions at Headingley and, perhaps decisively, have the ebullient Darren Gough to lead their attack. Gough currently thinks nothing is beyond him; he may be right.

Warwickshire, who continue to confound all who believe them a spent force, are reinforced by the return of Nick Knight and Ashley Giles at Canterbury. Kent, by contrast, will be without the injured Dean Headley and, having suffered a surprising Sunday defeat to Sussex, their confidence may be sufficiently dented for an away win. The visitors should also prevail at Grace Road, though Somerset will not find it easy against a Leicestershire side now coming to terms with this form of cricket.

Essex v Surrey
Kent v Warwickshire
Leicestershire v Somerset
Yorkshire v Northamptonshire

unlucky if he did not appear in the squad. For their rarity value as brothers, as much as for the refreshing vigour of their cricket, the Holioakes will hog the spotlight for a few days more, starting at Chelmsford today, when Adam will captain Ben in a Surrey side taking on a formidable task in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-finals.

Essex, their hosts, are unbeaten in all cricket this season. They have various areas of concern — Graham Gooch is still not making runs, for one — but possess an attractive blend of ages and accomplishment. At the junior end, Darwyn Law and Ashley

THE HOLIOAKES

Adam
1971: born Melbourne, September 5.
1985: moves to England from Perth with younger brother Ben, mother Della and father John, an oilfield engineer.
1986: taken on Surrey youth and, four years later, county's Young Cricketer.
1990: tours New Zealand with England's Young Cricketers and plays grade cricket for Fremantle in Western Australia.
1992: Surrey debut at one-day level, plays for North Shore in Sydney.
1993: first-class debut for Surrey against Derbyshire, scoring a century.
1995: selected for Testco Trophy series against Pakistan and appointed captain of England A team to Australia.
1997: appointed captain of Surrey.

Ben
1972: born Melbourne, November 11.
1986: moves to England with family.
1990: selected for England Under-15.
1991: selected for England Under-19.
1992: tours Zimbabwe with Middlesex School and tours West Indies with West of England; plays grade cricket for Melville in Australia.
1993: returns to Perth with parents and plays for Melville again.
1994: returns to England after being offered contract by Surrey; plays for Surrey against Essex in the Testco Trophy series.
1995: first-class debut for Surrey, plays for England Under-19 against New Zealand and picked for Under-19 tour to Pakistan; plays for North Perth with Adam.
1997: plays for England in Texaco Trophy.



Ben Holioake in full flow at Lord's, displaying the range and power of the strokes with which he marked his arrival on the international stage



Time for Taylor to rise from ashes

AN Ashes series is upon us, so, as night follows day, there is talk of a captain in peril — only this time the bangman is not setting up the noose for an English head, but for a man who has taken his team to the snow-capped summit of world cricket. As Australia go to Bristol today, to play some first-class cricket that they badly need, the critical hour approaches for Mark Taylor.

At the Oval on Saturday night, as he was interrogated after the second Testco Trophy defeat, Taylor looked shot to pieces. Like Archie Rice, the muck-chall comedian in John Osborne's play, *The Entertainer*, he was "dead behind the eyes". No wonder he gave himself Sunday off. He needs time to regain his equilibrium and if he does not make some convincing runs in the next week, at Bristol or Derby, he will have as much time as any man needs.

Nobody can enjoy the public spectacle of a soul in torment. Taylor has led Australia with imagination and nerve since he took over from Allan Border in September 1994. Australia's present, undisputed top-doggy proves that.

Moreover, he has brought dignity to the job, and to the game in general. He is a manifestly decent man as well as a fine cricketer — but he is now a liability, everybody knows it and his team must be weaker for his leadership.

The series will begin, therefore, with the best team in the world in a

MICHAEL HENDERSON



Line and Length

state of considerable uncertainty and an England side of unknown merit in a mood of justifiable optimism. It can all change within a single session of play — Border set the tone of the 1989 series inside two hours on the first day at Headingley — but for the time being, Michael Atherton can feel almost serene. For the first time in months, people are not talking about him.

Derek Underwood once asked Mike Brearley: "Why do so many players want to be captain?" He had a point. The leader has to play for ten others as well as himself and do so in the relentless world of modern communications, where

there is no space to call his own. He is one minute a saint, the next a fraud. His reputation is never fixed. To find two men in such a world so well-adjusted as Taylor and Atherton is remarkable.

Most of us, politicians apart, do not live in this world of intense public judgment. During the recent general election campaign, the dramatist, David Hare, filed a very readable daily diary for a newspaper. In it he observed that "for every person who actually works for a living, there now appear to be ten people whose job is to discourse on the quality of the work".

Among those who have gathered here to discourse on the quality of Taylor's work are Border and two other notable Australia captains, Ian Chappell and Richie Benaud. The fact that Chappell has probably the sharpest brain of any cricket pundit anywhere in the world, with a tongue to match, will not help Taylor much in his distress. Border may incline towards a gentler view, but he still calls a spade a shovel, unless he falls over one.

Hare might have added: "If you are the Prime Minister, the director general of the Royal Opera House or the captain of a Test side, you can multiply that figure of ten a hundredfold. Everybody knows how to do your job better than you do and failure is unforgivable."

Even when the ball runs for you, captaincy is never a comfortable

experience. Atherton, who has sweated blood for England, was last week called a "slowcoach" by one G. Boycott, whose own career, as we know, was rooted in an utter disregard for personal gain. If Napoleon had called Frederick the Great "a bit of a war-monger, in my book", he would have raised fewer eyebrows.

There may be some people rejoicing in the fact that the captain of Australia goes to Bristol holding out a begging bowl. Count me out. If England are to hold their own, or even win, this summer, it will be a more admirable achievement for being done against the best team Australia can put out. If he is making runs — and people here remember him as the opener who made 339 runs in the Test series eight years ago — Taylor captains that side.

Steve Waugh, the while, is limbering up to succeed him. He should, perhaps, remember Walt Whitman's famous poem in tribute to Abraham Lincoln:

O Captain! My Captain!
our fearful trip is done
The ship has weather'd every rack,
the prize we sought is won.

He should also remember how it ends, as all captain's tales must:

But I with mournful tread
Walk the deck my Captain lies
Fallen cold and dead.

Lear takes lead in persuading England not to play the fool

WOMEN'S CRICKET BY SARAH POTTER

MEGAN LEAR believes that these are exciting times for women's cricket. She should know, having been installed as national coach until after the World Cup in India this winter. Lear was appointed on a temporary basis last summer after the sudden resignation of John Bowen.

Lear's experience as a recent England player should help her to coax more out of the squad. A full-time teacher from Buckinghamshire, she made her debut against Australia in 1976 and played dependably for almost a decade until a car accident blighted her career. "Cricket has moved on," she said. "We didn't have access to the psychology or fitness ideas that are common now, though we would have been better for it, but having played for England, I do know about the pressure and the importance of mental toughness."

This is a recurring theme. New Zealand all too publicly exposed England's weaknesses in the televised one-day internationals last summer and Lear has been working hard to ensure that South Africa do not do the same in August.

She is particularly well placed to judge the South African sporting psyche, having toured there in 1974-75 to play in the inter-provin-

cial tournament, and she lived there for a time, before a family tragedy brought her home.

"My advantage is that I'm aware of how they play their sport," she said. "They will be highly competitive and organised and, even with their limited experience, they will be a serious challenge."

Any hint of complacency will have been banished in April, when the South Africa indoor side toured here and beat England 3-0. Four of that winning side are in the South Africa outdoor squad.

Before a ball was bowled this season, Lear made a giant stride forward. Disunity plagued England on their tour of India two winters ago, there was a lack of serious competition for places and senior players became disillusioned. That has all changed.

Barbara Daniels, the England vice-captain, explained the new mood: "There has been a very different feel since the first squad training last October. There are lots of new people in the squad, some under-21s coming through and a very positive mood. The coaching has been well run, with lots of different coaches coming to help in specific areas."

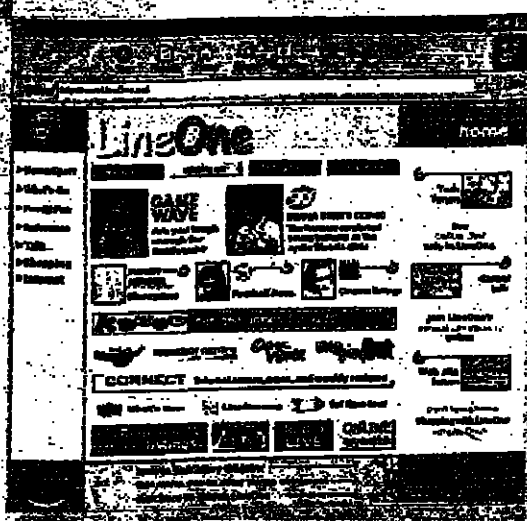
The latest is Julian Fountain, a David Leadbetter-type figure for professional cricketers who want to

improve their fielding techniques. Baseball-style diving and sliding has made run-saving a thrilling art and the women want to learn.

However, the traditional divided skirts of the women are hardly conducive to diving around on unforgiving outfields. The move towards trousers is gathering momentum. No decision has yet been made by the Women's Cricket Association (WCA), although it has recently been discussed at the National Squads Management meeting.

Many of the nations competing in the World Cup next winter have already confirmed their preference for trousers and the sponsors are also keen for an update. Names on the back of shirts would also help onlookers identify the players. With further television coverage agreed for this summer, there is a rare commercial chance beckoning: the WCA should take it while it can.

Meanwhile, at Wellingborough School today, the players will complete another training week-end. Despite damp and soggy weather, all the top batsmen have been scoring centuries, most notably Charlotte Edwards, who, at 16, last summer became the youngest player to represent England. These are exciting times indeed.



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The ITF players, their points and their values — the final positions

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Pts	Wk	Ch
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-12
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0	-14
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	+36
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0	0
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+31
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+17
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+4
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+8
10501	G Marshall	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+30
10502	S Kerr	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+10
10601	D Kharine	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	-28
10602	K Hitchcock	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	-4
10701	F Groves	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	-4
10702	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	-42
10703	J Flan	Coventry City	0.50	0	0
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0	-2
10802	R Houtt	Derby County	1.00	0	-1
10803	M Poom	Derby County	0.50	0	+4
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	-10
10902	K Watt	Dundee United	2.50	0	-2
10903	S Dystra	Dundee United	0.50	0	-9
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	0	-36
11002	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0	+1
11003	P Gerrard	Everton	2.00	0	-5
11101	G Rousset	Hibernian	1.50	0	-30
11102	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	0	-30
11103	D Lakovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	+27
11201	M Beoney	Leeds United	1.50	0	+5
11202	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0
11301	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	0	+40
11302	K Poole	Leeds United	1.00	0	-20
11303	K Keller	Liverpool	5.00	0	+10
11401	D James	Liverpool	0.50	0	0
11402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0
11403	J Nielsen	Liverpool	1.00	0	0
11501	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	0	+8
11502	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0	+2
11601	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-20
11602	B Roberts	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	-3
11603	M Schwarzer	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	-3
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	0	-20
12002	S Hlop	Newcastle United	4.00	0	-18
12003	P Smit	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+20
12101	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	-49
12102	A Fettes	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	-8
12103	A Gorm	Nottingham Forest	0.50	0	-78
12201	S Thomson	Rangers	5.00	0	+29
12202	A Dibble	Rangers	3.50	0	+7
12301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	-15
12302	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	-3
12401	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0	-28
12402	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	+2
12403	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	0	+7
12501	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	0	-36
12502	A Cohen	Sunderland	1.00	0	+9
12601	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	-11
12602	E Baarsden	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-2
12603	L Mikosko	West Ham United	2.00	0	-20
12701	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	0	+2
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0	-4

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Team	Pts	Wk	Ch
20101	S McKimmie	Aberdeen	2.00	0	+8
20102	L Dixon	Aberdeen	3.00	0	+38
20201	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	+49
20202	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+43
20301	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+67
20302	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	0
20303	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+5
20401	H Bagg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+32
20402	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+30
20403	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+19
20404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+2
20501	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	0	+38
20502	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.00	0	+31
20601	D Petrescu	Chelsea	3.00	0	+34
20602	S Minto	Chelsea	1.00	0	+3
20701	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-12
20702	B Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	-10
20703	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	+6
20801	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	+8
20802	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0	+4
20901	M Malpas	Dundee United	1.00	0	+5
20902	M Duffy	Dundee United	0.50	0	+9
20903	C Miller	Dundee United	0.25	0	-5
21001	A Tod	Dunfermline	0.25	0	-9
21002	M Hottiger	Everton	2.50	0	-7
21101	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	0	+14
21102	T Wilson	Everton	2.00	0	+14
21103	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0	+15
21201	G Locke	Hibernian	2.00	0	+25
21202	N Pointon	Hibernian	1.00	0	+24
21301	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	0	+7
21302	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	0	+12
21401	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50	0	+5
21402	K Kelly	Kilmarnock	2.50	0	+5
21501	A Dorling	Leeds United	2.50	0	+20
21502	G Hall	Leeds United	1.00	0	+40
21601	M Whitlow	Leeds United	0.50	0	+6
21602	S Grayson	Leeds United	0.50	0	+10
21701	F Roling	Leeds United	0.25	0	-1
21702	R Jorrell	Liverpool	1.00	0	+1
21703	S Harkness	Liverpool	1.50	0	+3
21801	S Bjornby	Liverpool	0.50	0	+45
21802	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00	0	+39
21803	G Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0	+34
21901	N Cox	Middlesbrough	3.00	0	-11
21902	C Morris	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-1
21903	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+8
22001	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.25	0	+14
22002	V Kunder	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	0
22003	S McMillan	Motherwell	0.50	0	+9
22101	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+30
22102	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+36
22103	R Elliott	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+38
22104	J Beresford	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+22
22201	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.00	0	+10
22202	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+5
22203	A Heald	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	+4
22301	N Jordan	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+4
22302	P Bonar	Rangers	0.75	0	-16
22303	D Kirkwood	Rangers	0.50	0	-14
22401	D Robertson	Rangers	2.50	0	+48
22402	J Brown	Rangers	2.00	0	0
22501	P Atkinson	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+25
22502	S Nicol	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+7
22503	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+3
22504	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3
22601	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	0	+4
22602	F Benell	Southampton	0.75	0	+6
22603	S Charlton	Sunderland	0.50	0	+4
22701	D Kubicki	Sunderland	0.50	0	+4
22702	M Scott	Sunderland	0.25	0	-7
22703	G Hall	Sunderland	0.25	0	-7
22704	J Eriksson	Sunderland	1.50	0	-1
22801	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	+7
22802	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	+12
22803	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	+13
22804	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-4
22901	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	-4
22902	J Dicks	West Ham United	4.00	0	+23
22903	T Breacker	West Ham United	1.00	0	+3
22904	K Rowland	West Ham United	1.00	0	-4
22905	M Bowen	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+9
23002	A Kimble	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+17
23003	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+3
23004	D Jupp	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
23005	C Perry	Wimbledon	0.25	0	+43

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Pts	Wk	Ch
30101	B Irvine	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-6
30102	C Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	1.50	0	+2
30103	A Kombouare	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+4
30201	A Adams	Arsenal	4.00	0	+39
30202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+41
30203	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	0	+50
30204	S Marshall	Arsenal	1.00	0	+14
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+44
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+75
30303	R Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+32



Wright, the Kilmarnock goalscorer at Ibrox, was the striker that you should have picked for the last week of ITF

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Pts	Wk	Ch
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+32
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+3
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-3
30404	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+6
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	0	+40
30502	M Wallace	Celtic	1.50	0	+44
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	0	+22
30504	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00	0	0
30505	E Annoni	Celtic	3.00	0	+4
30601	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	0	+1
30602	F Labouret	Chelsea	2.50	0	+36
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	+4
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0	+15
30606	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	0	+16
30701	L Dalseh	Coventry City	2.00	0	+5
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	+2
30703	G Green	Coventry City	1.50	0	-2
30704	A Evtushok	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1
30801	I Stimec	Derby County	2.50	0	-10
30802	D Wassall	Derby County	1.00	0	-3
30803	C McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0	-4
30804	J Laursen	Derby County	1.00	0	+10
30805	M Carson	Derby County	0.50	0	-5
30901	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	0	+52
31001	M Miller	Dunfermline	0.75	0	-6
31002	I den Bieman	Dunfermline	0.75	0	-19
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	0	+12
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	0	+11
31103	C Short	Everton	1.00	0	+6
31104	D McPherson	Everton	1.00	0	+30
31201	D McFerson	Hibernian	1.00	0	+34
31202	P Ritchie	Hibernian	0.50	0	+4
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	+9
30902	B Welsh	Hibernian	0.75	0	+9
31302	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0	-3
32202	S Dennis	Hibernian	1.00	0	-19
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	+4+21
31402	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	1.50	0	+4+16
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	0	+42
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2
31503	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.00	0	+29
31504	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	0
31505	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00	0	+23
31601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	0	+17
31602	J Watts	Leicester City	1.00	0	+8
31603	P Kaarmark	Leicester City	0.50	0	+7
31604	S Prior	Leicester City	1.00	0	0
31605	M Elliott	Leicester City	1.50	0	+10
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0	+24
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	0	+29
31704	N Redwood	Liverpool	3.00	0	+12
31705	D Matteo	Liverpool	1.00	0	+26
31706	B T Kvarme	Liverpool	2.00	0	+3
31801	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	0	+11
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	0	+39
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	0	+25
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+16
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-6
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-10
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4
31905	G Festa	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+6
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	1.50	0	-1
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0	+24
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+26
32102	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+7
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+32
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+1
32202	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	+9
32203	S Blatherwick	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-5
32303	D Craig	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-13
32304	G Mitchell	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-11
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	0	+58
32402	A McLaren	Rangers	3.00	0	+24
32403	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	+40
32404	R Smith	Rangers	2.50	0	+18
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+15
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+25
32503	B Linighan	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0	0
32601	K Monkton	Southampton	1.50	0	-18
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	1.00	0	+7
32603	S Thompson	Southampton	0.50	0	+2
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.50	0	+3
32605	U van Goozel	Southampton	1.50	0	-9
32701	A Melville	Sunderland	1.00	0	+12
32702	K Ball	Sunderland	1.00	0	+14
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	0	+18
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+22
31702	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	+22
32802	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+17
32803	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0
32806	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-5
32807	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	0	+4
32901	W Hines	West Ham United	2.50	0	+17
32902	M Rippey	West Ham United	1.50	0	+10
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	0	+6
32904	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	0	+7
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	0	+10
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00	0	-2
33003	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
33004	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	0	-1
33005	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+16
33006	S Fitzcerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0

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Consistency rewarded as game goes to extra time



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



BY JAMES WILLOUGHBY

THE great and the good of Interactive Team Football (ITF) met in London on Sunday to receive their awards after an exciting finale to the competition saw the two leading teams finish level on points.

It took the tie-breaking procedure to determine that Sophie And Sam had triumphed over Turner's Earners 5 by dint of having used fewer players, the sides being very closely matched in most other regards.

So it was a relieved Gary Foster, the winning selector, who received the £50,000 winner's cheque from Colin Calderwood, the Tottenham Hotspur and Scotland defender, at the themed London restaurant Football, Football.

The previous day, Foster and the runner-up, Paul Turner, had gone into the final game of the season that counted in ITF, the Tennents Scottish Cup final between Kilmarnock and Falkirk, locked together. They both selected the Kilmarnock manager, Bobby Williamson, but their other transfer was to prove vital.

Foster said: "I toyed with selecting a midfielder player but in the end it had to be Paul Wright [a striker] because of his goalscoring record."

Turner opted for Jim McIntyre, a designated Kilmarnock midfielder player, who played up front. After 20 minutes of the game, Wright scored and Sophie And Sam took a three-point lead, but the scorer undid his good work when subsequently booked, forfeiting a point.

When the final whistle went, both men's teams had scored the same number of points. The selection of Wright netted Sophie And Sam two points (-2 for goal, +1 for clean sheet). Both sides had 327 points and the tie-breaking procedure was invoked.



Cadete, the Celtic forward, was the leading player in Interactive Team Football, scoring a grand total of 92 points



"Five or six clean sheets after Christmas made a big difference for me," Foster said, "and individually the contributions of Matt Elliott, of Leicester, and Paul Kitson, of West Ham, were invaluable."

"Like all who excel at ITF, Foster surrendered hours of studying transfer deals, fixture lists and injury news on the way to his prize. A devoted Manchester United follower, from one of their unlikely outposts in Hull, he did not find a smooth transition to success in ITF. "I played the game last year but didn't do much good as I failed to read the rules properly regarding transfers," he said.

"This season, I formulated the strategy of not taking players out when they are fit and due to make a quick reappearance in a Sunday or Monday game."

For Turner there was much sympathy, as well as the £10,000 prize for the runner-up. Based in Jersey, he had flown over not knowing his fate. "It's annoying to have just missed out, but that's football," he said.

Turner, who works for Midland Bank, invited a colleague, Rob Daniel, to share his team after taking pity on Daniel's ailing fortunes with his own team in another competition.

The two worked in tandem and built their success on a backbone of solid defence provided by players from Leeds United and Aston Villa. Turner's favourite team, the pair enjoyed a "brilliant" January, when they won the manager of the month title, and used players like Jorge Cadete, of Celtic, as a springboard for their ITF challenge.

David Edmondson, of Worthing, took the third prize of £2,500 with his team Edmo

Utd, having also won the monthly prize for December. "The ITF is a much better game than the ones in other national newspapers. The transfer system means that it takes real skill to do well," he said.

Calderwood, for his part, marvelled at the close finish and applauded the efforts of all concerned. "This game takes a lot of effort and really increases the interest in the Premiership and in Scottish football, too," he said.

He nominated his fellow central defenders, David May and Ugo Ehiogu, as the best in their position, and Alan Shearer and Les Ferdinand, the Newcastle United pair, as his most feared opponents. "Shearer has no quality finer than his ability to find the net," Calderwood said, "while Ferdinand is big, strong and formidable in the air."

The final weekly winner of the season — with a princely nine points — was Mr R. Lock, of Bath, whose team Lucky 1 win him £250.

Any outstanding Interactive Team Football queries should be directed to 01582 488 122.

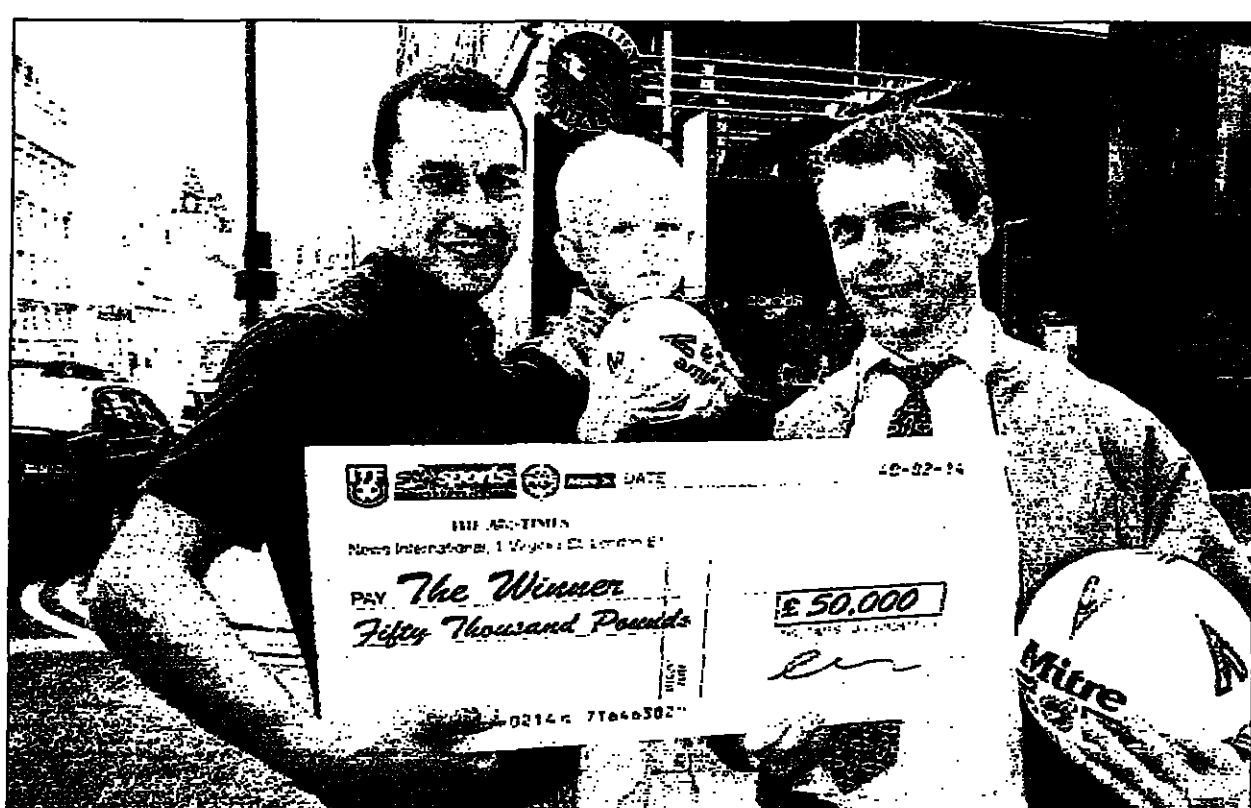
They think it's all over



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



ITF will return next season



Calderwood, left, congratulates Mr Foster and Sam at the awards ceremony. Photograph: Deniz McNeelance

THE FINAL LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

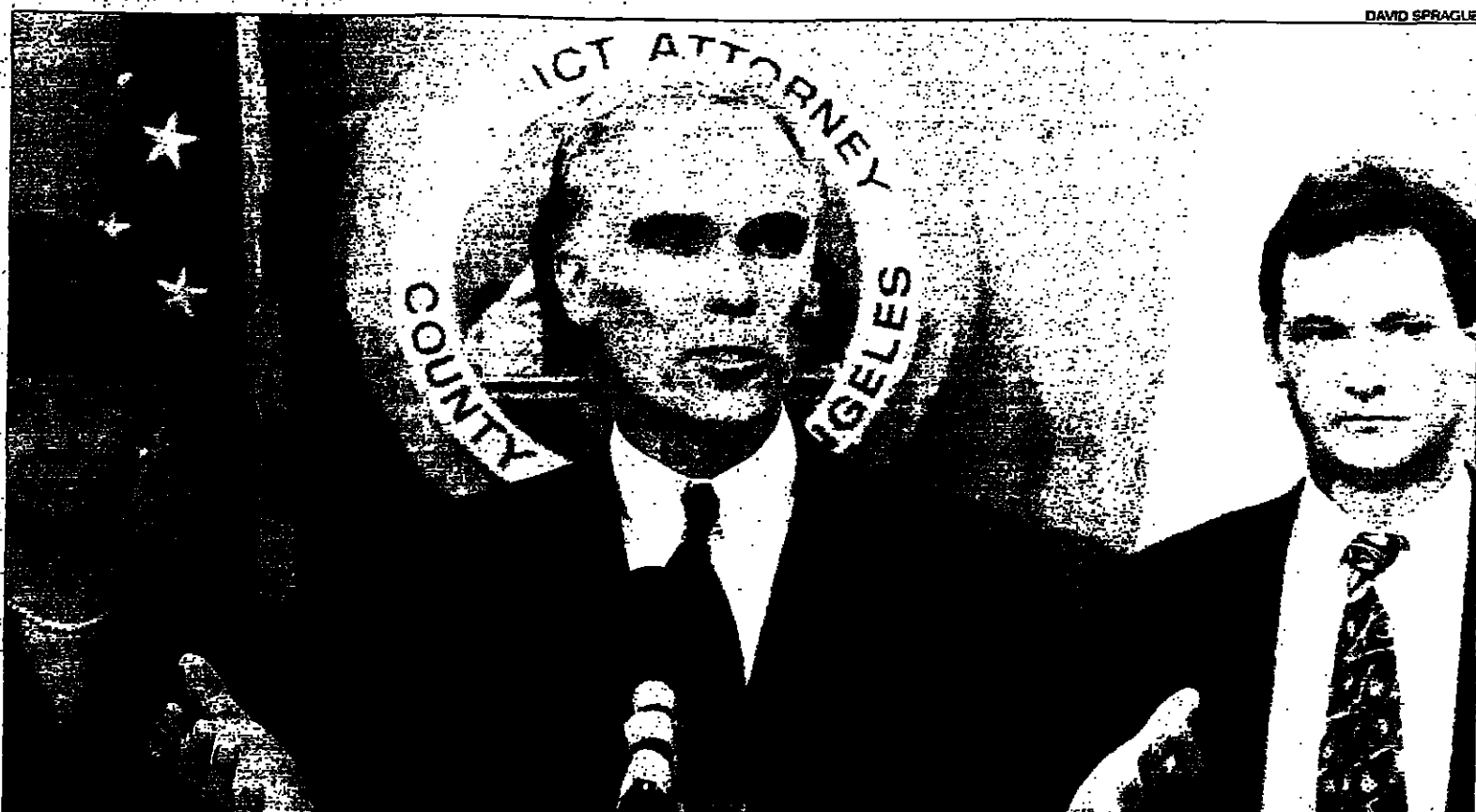
Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	827	121	Joking	(P Fallon)	670
2	Turner's Earners 5	(P Turner)	827	122	Northern Lights	(C Wright)	670
3	Edmo Utd	(D Edmondson)	811	123	Garforth Seashwks	(I Doughty)	670
4	Jones Boys Three	(M Jones)	805	124	Three Tabletoppers	(M A Kennedy)	668
5	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	800	125	Edmo's 1st XI	(S Bakir)	668
6	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	793	126	Inter The Pub	(M Ward)	667
7	Brain's Team	(B Howes)	792	127	The Winners VW	(V Wadwa)	667
8	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	791	128	The Far Side	(C Hadfield)	666
9	Daggers	(V Cox)	790	129	Team C	(A Loe)	666
10	Nobby	(J Brown)	783	130	Demolition Men	(J Murrey)	666
11	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	780	131	Kinky Imports	(S Payne)	666
12	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	779	132	Inter The Waller	(N P Lewis)	666
13	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	774	133	Star Chamber	(M Macmillan)	665
14	Teddy Three	(B Bear)	773	134	Rain's Dream Team	(M Ravn)	665
15	A	(M Corless)	773	135	AJK	(K Hughes)	665
16	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	773	136	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	665
17	Deaf Rangers 3	(J Clayton)	772	137	Wingsome Wonders	(P Paynter)	665
18	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	768	138	The Instructors	(K Curran)	664
19	Pha Upa Two	(P Tustler)	765	139	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	664
20	Icarus	(B Wells)	764	140	Shot On Sight 2	(P Goldstraw)	663
21	Bob's Boys 2	(R Calder)	761	141	Byzantine Bricks	(S Houghton)	663
22	Nonchalant AFC 3	(J J Ward)	758	142	The Loggers	(C Wright)	663
23	Seeston Celtic	(B McElvorn)	756	143	Inter The Waller	(M Ward)	662
24	Blythe Spartans	(T Blythe)	754	144	Come On You Rocks	(no name)	662
25	ABC	(M Baber)	753	145	Diplomatic Risk	(G Prichard)	662
26	Walsingham FC	(M Kirkwood)	751	146	Grafton Willows	(R J Brown)	662
27	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	751	147	Lynne's Lions	(L Horne)	662
28	AB 4	(A Jorland)	750	148	Guy's Head Beasts	(S Gennell)	662
29	Nobby 29	(J Brown)	750	149	John Hunt Taunton A	(J Hunt)	662
30	1970 Jr FC	(J Ross)	743	150	Stella's Dream	(C A Kitchen)	661
31	SCFC 1998	(J Bithell)	743	151	Mars FC	(M Baber)	661
32	Jabberwocky	(P A Amosa)	741	152	Nellie's Heroes	(I Fox)	661
33	Uni Boys Utd 1	(B Gardiner)	737	153	Grimmer's Army	(S Gray)	660
34	Partick Blythe 3	(J Hamilton)	736	154	Back In Bristol	(C Barnett)	660
35	Widow	(P Lockyer)	736	155	Hannah's Heroes	(A Mountford)	660
36	Turner's Earners 1	(P Turner)	734	156	Inter-Mountford	(J M Bartholomew)	659
37	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	734	157	St Bartholomew's	(V Cox)	659
38	Parr Academicals	(A Kirkwood)	732	158	Daniel's Seishans	(M Peck)	659
39	Starm	(P Mills)	731	159	Def Con 3	(M Hugg)	659
40	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	728	160	Wassak	(V Cox)	659
41	Men Machine	(P Brown)	728	161	I Hate Alan Hansen	(P Johnson)	658
42	Jones Boys Eight	(M Jones)	727	162	Burly's Buddies	(P Patel)	657
43	Geston FC	(J Brown)	726	163	Patel One	(J Donaldson)	657
44	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	725	164	JD 3	(P Bailey)	657
45	XJB Sports	(A Bates)	725	165	Triple Top Tan	(J Lane)	657
46	Orvisio Classico	(J Bradshaw)	724	166	Jack's Nightmare	(W George)	657
47	Thom Footiey FC	(M Horan)	723	167	Tungston Town	(M Bremner)	657
48	Turner's Earners 4	(P Turner)	723	168	Billy No Mates XI	(K Howson)	657
49	Man City Free Zone	(J Pregon)	723	169	Vas3	(G Watson)	657
50	You're Not Very Well	(D Ingham)	723	170	Bang Hot	(M Macmillan)	657
51	Horner's Mob	(R Laskowski)	722	171	Flying Pigs	(J Swires)	657
52	Kryssn 2	(C Hunter)	722	172	JS August Monthly 1	(P Roach)	657
53	Bob's Boys 4	(M Ward)	721	173	Schoko Zoo	(D Goodwin)	657
54	Inter The Stand	(D Senton)	720	174	Lloydy's Barge	(S Gell)	657
55	DJS 2	(A Robson)	720	175	S Gell Teunton A	(J Staszewicz)	657
56	Club's-30 Toes	(S Mingle)	717	176	NT Monksies	(J Williams)	657
57	Brainbow United	(J Hunt)	717	177	Dinamo Moscow	(T Blythe)	657
58	Concrete Banana	(P Turner)	716	178	Sunderland	(I Clark)	657
59	John Hunt Taunton C	(P Turner)	716	179	Infinity George	(S Cook)	657
60	Edmondson	(M Baber)	716	180	Nobby 12	(M Ward)	657
61	AFC	(P Turner)	715	181	Signus Alpha	(A Griffiths)	657
62	Tur	(G P Dolan)	714	182	Porcelain Dogs	(A Robson)	657
63	Mosh's Ark	(A Burton)	713	183	GR 2	(G Richards)	657
64	Skyforest	(P Fromm)	713	184	Nomates	(C Wilson)	657
65	Where's Ray Gone?	(J Hunt)	712	185	Harok	(J Williams)	657
66	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	711	186	Bob Hope And No Hope	(I Clark)	657
67	Sam Sharkey	(S Sharkey)	710	187	Animals	(S Cook)	657
68	Always Portugal 1	(V Guimaraes)	710	188	Cookie's Gummies	(M Ward)	657
69	Inter The Unknown	(P Barnett)	710	189	Langton Longballs	(J Brown)	657
70			710	190	Nobby 34		657

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LAW

● ADOPTION RULES 35
● PARENTAL LEAVE 35

Frances Gibb on Labour's plan for American-style district attorneys — and other changes



Gil Garcetti, Los Angeles District Attorney, talks to the media after the O.J. Simpson not-guilty verdict. Would this American office translate well to Britain?

Time to bring in the DA

The blaze of publicity last week over Jack Straw's new "task force" to tackle youth crime largely eclipsed plans for the biggest shake-up of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) since its creation in 1986. But the plans — based on a longstanding pledge of Labour's — could have much greater impact on the criminal justice system as a whole.

The review — although Mr Straw and the Attorney-General, John Morris, QC, were reluctant to say so — reflects their concern over the CPS's performance, over the drop in convictions at a time of rising crime — over the failure, in other words, of the CPS to achieve the aims for which it was created.

The two year-long, slow-motion review, when in opposition to the original aims of the CPS, they said in a paper, "have not been achieved. The number of discontinuances [of cases] has increased; the acquittal rate has risen; the service is 'over-centralised and... morale... is low.' They pointed to what they saw as a paradox at the heart of criminal justice: while the number of recorded crimes has soared over the past decade and a half, the number of people convicted or cautioned for those crimes has dropped. "As a result," they said, "only one crime in 50 now results in a conviction."

The first part of the reforms is for American-style district attorneys — named, known, accountable and answerable chief crown prosecutors. There will be one in each of the new 42 CPS areas in which the service will be redrawn, in line

with police force areas, plus one for the Metropolitan and City of London police forces.

The idea is to make the service more locally-based and to improve liaison with the police. Each DA-style chief Crown prosecutor will have extensive devolved powers and full management responsibilities. The CPS also is to be made responsible for the task of keeping victims informed of the progress of their cases.

The Government believes the structure of the CPS — 13 regions working with 43 police forces and 24 criminal justice liaison committees — is unwieldy and works against securing more convictions. But the reorganisation is only stage one of a bigger overhaul. There will be a full-scale review under a High Court judge of CPS internal structures, policies and procedures and whether, as Mr Morris put it, they have been a factor in the fall in convictions by more than a third — at a time when crime has risen so dramatically.

Now in office, these ministers are at pains not to attack the CPS, particularly not Dame Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions. Lord Falconer of Thoroton, QC, the new Solicitor-General, went out of his way to say that the new moves were "building on underlying strengths." The result, he said, would be cases coming to court on a more "efficiently arranged" basis, victims of crime being clearer about what was happening to their cases and "most important...

more guilty people being convicted of their crimes."

Dame Barbara herself said she fully supported the measures and rejected the notion that they amounted to "an indictment" of her five years as head of the CPS. People who said otherwise did not understand the situation, she added. The CPS was already making changes to make it a more local service.

"What I really want to see," she said, "are improvements for the public in the delivery of the criminal justice system and I think that this is going to be very helpful in this respect." In truth, she had to put a brave

face on it. As one official put it: "She is a civil servant; she accepts that her job is to implement government policies."

But privately, she does not accept the CPS has done a bad job. Fiercely defensive of the service, she points out that the conviction rate in Crown Court "not guilty" cases has actually risen — from about 56 per cent in 1992 to 60 per cent in 1995. In the magistrates' courts, 77 per cent of defendants pleading not guilty are convicted.

The CPS, she will argue, is demanded-led; it can prosecute only those cases that the police

bring forward, and the number of prosecutions has dropped, from 1.5 million three years ago to 1.3 million.

Statistics aside, many staff think the CPS's morale is low, that it has lost its way, become over-centralised and is too bureaucratic all at the expense of its core work of prosecuting cases for trial.

The reforms are a tight timetable. By June 1 the DPP will have named Crown prosecutors for each proposed new area, to have oversight of casework, be personally involved in sensitive or serious cases and liaise with other agencies. By next April the DPP will formally create the 42 new areas and selection boards will appoint 42 chief crown prosecutors.

Reaction is so far positive. The First Division Association, which represents most CPS lawyers, says that if changes "improve both local accountability and resources devoted to front-line prosecutions" they will help the service to deliver its full potential.

James Morton, editor of the *New Law Journal*, said it would mean greater CPS control of the police investigation, which would be of great help. He added: "I always argued that the CPS's failing was that it had no control over the police. Now it will be able to say — 'Please get this or that piece of evidence.'"

He recalls a case of his own, a man charged with assaulting the police, in which charges had to be downgraded after police failed to respond to repeated requests for a doctor's report.

Neil Addison, former senior Crown prosecutor, believes that named prosecutors would give the service a more human face. "The CPS will," he said, "become more identifiable. The move would also bring closer working — interdependence not independence — remove bureaucracy and enable branches to respond better to local needs. "At present," he said, "every branch has to do things the same way. The CPS is too big to be directed centrally."

It was crucial, though, that the new posts were filled from outside the service as well as from within and were advertised, so that the CPS retained its credibility and independence. But overall, the reforms could only help in what Mr Addison sees as the most important thing of all: "Restoring the service's pride."

Can a windfall be clawed back?

Should someone become unjustly enriched at your expense, you would be rightly aggrieved. A strong sense of injustice would arise if the law failed to provide a remedy. This has sometimes proved so in the past, but things are changing.

Much of English law aims to compensate an innocent party for damage or losses sustained when someone else has failed to discharge an obligation. Traditional causes of action in breach of contract, negligence, and breach of trust can rectify a case of unjust enrichment as well as providing compensation to the victim. But this is not always so.

For more than 200 years, the law has searched for a means to ensure that the recipient of an unjust enrichment refunds it to the loser even if there is no obvious traditional legal basis on which a court can rely. Until recently, progress has been slow.

In 1966 came the first edition of *The Law Of Restitution* by Robert Goff and Gareth Jones. It took up the cause of establishing the principle that unjust enrichment should not go unredressed. It was a book to which lawyers often went when seeking inspiration on behalf of clients who could claim to have lost money or property that someone else had unjustifiably gained, but for whom there was no obvious established legal remedy.

A quarter of a century later, Lord Goff of Chieveley, as one of the authors had become, contributed to an important decision of the House of Lords in a case concerning funds unwittingly received by the Playboy Club from a solicitor who had helped himself to money from his firm's client account and gambled it away there.

The House of Lords decided that despite the lack of any legal relationship between the firm of solicitors (no one else there knew what the dishonest solicitor had been doing) and the club, which itself was wholly innocent, the solicitors could recover the sums lost. The decision was based on the principle that someone who becomes unjustly enriched at the expense of another should make appropriate restitution.

This decision was hailed by Professor Peter Birks, QC of Oxford University, as signalling an emancipation of the English law from previously self-imposed restraints on the development of a principle of unjust enrichment. He, together with Professor Jones, QC, as the co-author of the 1966 textbook had in the meantime become, had contributed to

a lively and distinguished academic debate on the subject in the intervening years.

Though the case was a milestone, it was just the first tentative step towards the recognition of an English law of restitution based on the principle of unjust enrichment. Remedies based on this principle had long been recognised in the United States and in some Commonwealth and European countries. However, a year later another step was taken when the House of Lords permitted a tax-payer to recover tax paid to the State under an unlawful demand for tax. The unjust enrichment of the State at the expense of the taxpayer was reversed.

Last year, Lord Goff, supported by Lord Woolf, would have extended this area of the law to enable banks that had entered interest swap agreements with local authorities (subsequently declared by the courts to be illegal) to recover compound interest on the sums made over by the banks when those sums were reclaimed. The majority of the law lords held that this was not possible in the circumstances, but the case demonstrated the role that the principle of unjust enrichment now had in English law.

In his eloquent speech, Lord Goff spoke of how the principle should be available to do full justice and of how the seeds of growth in "this newly recognised branch of the law" should be allowed to spread under "the warm sun of judicial creativity". Lord Woolf said "restitution is an area of the law which is still in the process of being evolved by the courts", echoing the words of Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead in an earlier case when he said that "the categories of unjust enrichment are not closed".

How far will the courts go in responding to Lord Goff's invitation to innovation? Traditional remedies and established law will not be blown away, but thinking the hitherto unthinkable may not now be out of the question.



DAVID FOSKETT, QC

In a case decided very recently, the Court of Appeal accepted as arguable (albeit only just arguable) in the unusual circumstances of the particular case that the fundamental legal concept of the separate identity of a company from its members might not necessarily get in the way of an unjust enrichment claim.

This space will be watched with interest by lawyers, laymen, businessmen and local and state authorities in the years ahead.

● The author is a practising barrister in London.

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Quick, get that plug in

NEW LABOUR — new Civil Service? One result of the Labour victory, according to the leading City law firm Clifford, Chance, will be a substantial boost to Whitehall's power.

Richard Thomas, the director of the firm's public policy group, is advising clients that the big Labour majority and Conservative inexperience of opposition will mean that Bills receive less scrutiny.

His guide on the new legislative programme says that though ministers will give the overall lead on policy, civil servants will have great influence on "virtually all matters of detail and implementation without much real parliamentary scrutiny or challenge". He believes that lobby groups, to have any chance of influence, must get their messages across before Bills are drawn up.

Ditched. DAME Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, may well be putting a brave face on the reforms to the CPS (see above). But it is worth recalling that when she cut the number of CPS areas from 31 to 13, she described the move as "a vital springboard for the future development of the service". The reform was very much hers.

On another occasion, she said: "A more cohesive structure was needed within which our headquarters and areas could work more closely together." Last week her reorganisation was unceremoniously ditched.



Dame Barbara: reformer

QC loss shock. EMINENT counsel whose advice was regularly sought under Michael Howard's regime at the Home Office, might find the new tenant at Queen Anne's Gate less willing to pay out taxpayers' money to outside QCs.

Jack Straw, the new Home Secretary, pointed out at a recent reception to mark his arrival that Lord Williams of Mostyn (former Bar chairman) would not only be his junior minister in the Lords,

but would be a source of free legal advice on thorny issues.

Slow train

A LANDMARK anniversary passed almost unnoticed last week: it is 75 years since the first woman was called to the Bar.

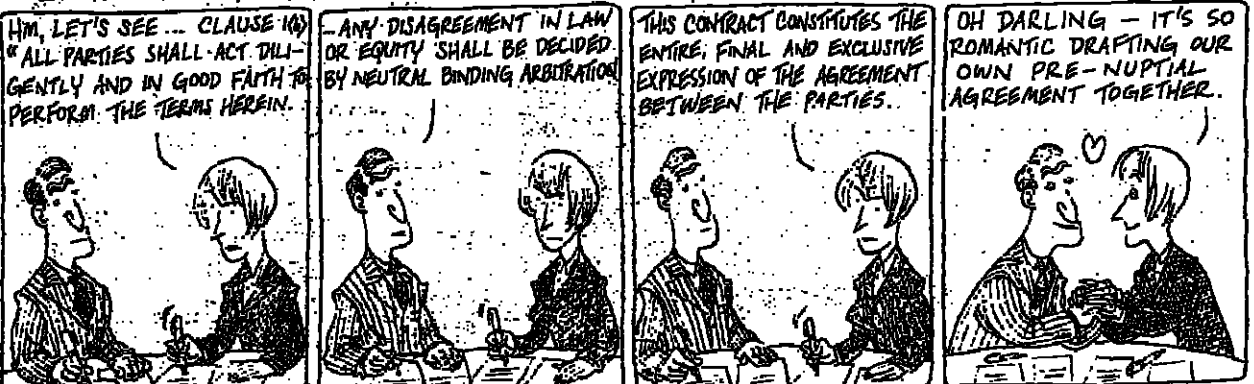
Lord Justice Staughton drew attention to the fact at the Inner Temple's call night. It was to that Inn that Ivy Williams, a tutor and law fellow at St Anne's College, Oxford (and predecessor of Ruth Deech, an honorary bench at Inner Temple) was admitted.

In those days the Inns were ahead of many professions, including the Church. The judge, the Inns' Treasurer, pointed out that the admission of token women was not important; what mattered was that they enjoyed progress and promotion on equal terms. In the past, the profession, in this, had been "regrettably slow".

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This child was adopted by a male couple in Seattle, Washington State: now judicial attitudes in Britain to homosexual adoption are changing

Will gays get their way?

Does the "gay adoption" case, reported in *The Times* last week, constitute an all-out victory for homosexuals with parenting ambitions? In the case (*Re W*), Mr Justice Singer picked his way carefully through the legislation, which is silent on the issue, to order that an 11-year-old girl be "freed" for adoption by a woman cohabiting with her female partner.

The Adoption Act 1976 takes a minimalist approach to the qualifications of aspirant adopters. He, she or they must normally be over 21 and be either an unmarried individual or a married couple. Gays are therefore treated exactly like heterosexual cohabiting couples in that there is nothing to prevent any one partner becoming a legal parent or a child intended for their joint household. Parliament has shown no interest in the carnal preferences of any of these people (including the natural parents and married adopters), preferring to rule, as every family law student knows, that a "court or adoption agency shall have regard to all the circumstances, first consideration [being] the welfare of the child". Judge Singer — unlike his critics, if any — had the benefit of first-hand reports from the guardian *ad litem* and

An adoption case last week saw a reversal of previous judicial attitudes, says Chris Barton

others about the suitability for the girl of her new household — where she had lived for the previous two years — and its members, hearing that "she was well settled and thriving".

Despite the neutral approach, it would be disingenuous not to see this new case as a reversal of judicial attitudes previously displayed under the Act. In *Re W*, the order was made despite the natural mother's objection to her replacement's lesbian relationship. As Parliament permits, her consent was dispensed with as being "unreasonably" withheld. Yet 20 years ago, in a neatly symmetrical reversal of the present case, the House of Lords held that a homosexual father was himself being "unreasonable" in contesting his son's adoption by the boy's mother and her new husband. Their Lordships held that a "reasonable" parent would consider to "protect" the child from "the dangers associated with a homosexual lifestyle".

An "all-out victory" for would-be par-

ent-homosexuals? It certainly represents judicial approval of one policy judgment made by one local authority. It is the latter's decision that is crucial in these cases because most adoptions start with the would-be parent(s) being adjudged by a local authority, or a private agency retained by it, to be suitable for a probationary placement. There is an estimated rate of 40 inquiries per available child, so married couples are unlikely to face a significant challenge to their ambitions.

Yet in one recent English case concerning a cohabiting, but different-sex couple, the law has gone closer than in *Re W* to achieving the joint adoption model denied by Parliament to unmarried pairs. Last year, in *Re AB*, Mr Justice Cazalet (who emphasised that he was not seeking to subvert the Adoption Act 1976) granted an adoption order in favour of one partner — the man — coupled with a joint residence order in favour of them both. This ensured that they each had official

"parental responsibility" for the child, (whom they had fostered successfully for the previous two years) under the Children Act 1989. But though the man therefore became the legal father for ever, the child was left without — indeed, was deprived of, a legal mother — and the parental responsibility of the new "social" mother would be forfeit were the court to end the joint residence order.

One note of caution should be sounded with regard to adoptions by one member of an unmarried couple, either straight or gay. Should the partnership break down — as they do with greater frequency than marriages — then the other party would have no financial responsibility for the child. Nor would he or she necessarily have the automatic right to apply to the court for contact with the child. (A joint residence order, made in happier times, would only rectify the latter omission and not the former.) Yet the breakdown rate of second and subsequent marriages is among the highest on record — despite step-parents being the recipients of the majority of the 5,000 or so adoption orders made in 1995.

● The author is Professor of Family Law at Staffordshire University.

Time is ripe for parental leave

Adopting the EU's directive is crucial to family-friendly work, says Clare McGlynn

The recent announcement that the new Government will end the UK's opt-out from European Union social policy means that the UK will have to implement the Parental Leave Directive. Though the provisions of the directive are limited, its implementation will have an important symbolic effect in the UK, particularly in view of the fact that the recent report *Parental Leave: The Price Of Family Values*, by the think-tank Demos, showed that only 3 per cent of the organisations surveyed had parental leave policies.

Furthermore, the report revealed the ignorance of many organisations: 60 per cent stated that they would not be considering the introduction of a parental leave policy over the next three years.

More worrying was recent research by the group Young Women Lawyers which found that not only did just 6 per cent of the largest 200 solicitors' firms provide parental leave schemes, but also that there was widespread ignorance of the whole idea of parental leave, let alone the existence of the directive.

It seems, therefore, that the UK has some way to go before it embraces the more enlightened employment policies of our continental partners, where parental leave as a statutory right is widely available.

Parental leave generally refers to a period of leave available to men and women on the birth/adoption of a child. It is seen as an important means by which to offer, in the words of the directive, "men and women an opportunity to reconcile their work responsibilities and family obligations". In particular, in moving beyond offering leave to women only — maternity leave — the directive aims to encourage men to "assume an equal share of family responsibilities". The directive is therefore a crucial measure encouraging more "family-friendly" working practices that are of benefit both to men and to women, allowing men to play a greater role in family life, which in turn should enable women to participate fully in the workplace.

Not to be forgotten is the fact that a greater allowance for the family and personal responsibilities of male and

female employees is also of benefit to employers and the economy as a whole: improving the morale, efficiency, and productivity of employees — as evidenced by the CBI and the US National Bureau of Economic Research.

The content of parental leave policies can vary greatly, but the directive lays down two minimum standards. First, an entitlement to an individual (non-transferable) right to at least three months unpaid parental leave within eight years of the birth/adoption of a child. The employee must be protected against dismissal on the grounds of requesting or taking parental leave, and must have the right to return to the same or an equivalent job. Second, employees have the right to time off work for urgent family reasons (the length of time and conditions of access to be laid down by each member state).

Further provisions of the directive leave a discretion to member states. For example, the Government will be able to specify whether the leave can be taken full-time or part-time. It may choose to impose a service qualification period on the entitlement to leave, but this period must not exceed 12 months.

Though the minimum right is to unpaid leave, the directive also provides that member states should consider maintaining an entitlement to social security payments during the leave period, "where appropriate under national conditions, and taking into account the budgetary situation". In view of the fact that the vast majority of EU member states offer some form of payment during parental leave, it is to be hoped that the Government will make provision for paid leave, perhaps, as a start, equivalent to statutory maternity pay. If provision is not made for paid leave, the entitlement to parental leave will be largely illusory.

Employers, in the interests of themselves and their employees, should be acting now and not waiting until legal obligations are imposed on them; and the Government should seek to implement the directive in a manner that gives real effect to the rights provided.

● The author is a solicitor and lecturer in law at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Employers should be acting now, not waiting

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COMPANIES

United Utilities looks to exceptionals

UNITED UTILITIES: A full contribution from Norweb and one-off factors should help to bolster the final outcome on Thursday. Pre-tax profits are set to grow 22 per cent from £389 million to £475 million boosted by exceptional profits of £160 million, much of which relates to disposals.

Excluding exceptionals, the group, of which Sir Desmond Pitcher is chairman, is likely to have performed modestly on an underlying basis, with earnings reckoned to be just 2 per cent ahead at 80p.

The disposal programme has been more successful than expected. Proceeds are likely to total more than £450 million eventually, helping the group to recoup almost 40 per cent of the cost of buying Norweb.

The United board has already set a target for its dividend policy until the turn of the century. As a result, the final payout is expected to be 14 per cent higher at 37.2p.

SIEBE: The ink may still be drying on the £330 million acquisition of APV, but brokers will have plenty of questions to ask about prospects for the group when it unveils full-year figures on Thursday.

The City is expecting another solid performance from the fast-growing group and is unlikely to be disappointed at the headline level with earnings set to rise 20 per cent to 52.5p. This will be struck after an increase in pre-tax profits from £327 million to between £415 million and £425 million. However, according to NatWest Securities, the broker,

organic revenue growth is likely to miss the 10 per cent target set by the management.

It will have been a good year for the group's core businesses, but not good enough to make up for weakness in some of its other markets. After stripping out acquisitions and currency translations the group is expected to have failed to reach budgeted levels. Foxboro's markets remain flat while weak demand for semi-conductors is likely to leave its mark on results from Unitech.

Shareholders should be rewarded with a 10 per cent rise in the payout to 14.7p net.

YORKSHIRE WATER: The new management team worked hard last year to address the problems of the group and the drought-stricken areas in which it operates. Full-year figures on Friday are likely to show pre-tax profits of £211 million. Last year's £208 million was depressed by £47 million of drought-related charges. Earnings per share during this period will be 3 pence ahead at 46.7p benefiting from the reduced number of shares in issue since a buyback.

The one positive factor included in these figures will be a doubled contribution from Yorkshire Environment.

Yorkshire is committed to real growth in returns to shareholders of between 6 per cent and 8 per cent. Therefore, a final payment of 13p a share could be on the cards, delivering a total payout of 18.3p net, an increase of almost 19 per cent on the previous year.



Sir Desmond Pitcher will be pleased with the United Utilities programme of disposals

ANGLIAN WATER: Heavy provisions for its core regulated activities and international operations should not obscure another solid performance when the group reports full-

year figures tomorrow. Pre-tax profit forecasts range from £245 million to £255 million compared with £238 million last time. Provisions totalling £20 million relating to restruct-

uring and contract provisioning will dent the out-turn. The reduced number of shares in issue since a buyback should enhance earnings which are expected to climb 6p to 84.1p.

Capital expenditure is expected to have risen to £130 million, but year-end debt is likely to remain static at about £975 million. Shareholders should see the payout rise about 8 per cent from 30p to 34p.

SOUTH WEST WATER: An improvement in operating margins should result in a useful performance from the group when it unveils full-year figures on Thursday. Brokers are forecasting pre-tax profits up about 20 per cent at £122 million, with earnings per share 8 pence higher at 84.4p. The outcome will be boosted by a profit from the sale of its stake in Westcountry Television.

The contribution from waste disposal continues to grow and now accounts for about 10 per cent of overall profits. Further acquisitions in this area are expected. After two years of inquiries by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission following the abortive bids for Wessex and Severn Trent, the group is now free to concentrate on the business at hand. Shareholders will be rewarded with an increase in the payout of 20 per cent from 30.5p to 36.6p.

WOLVERHAMPTON & DUDLEY BREWERIES: There are high hopes for the regional brewer this year as the benefits of increased investment in beer brand marketing and greenfield sites start to be felt. Interim figures tomorrow will see pre-tax profits grow from £18.1 million to £20 million, but it will not be until the second half that the real benefits come through.

Earnings are also likely to produce a similar improvement, rising from 18.8p to 21.1p, while the payout is expected to be up from 6p to 6.6p. The group has been turning out new pubs with different themes, but it has struggled as a regional brewer to compete with the national operators.

THORN: Full-year figures tomorrow may show that the group has turned the corner since January's profits warn-

ing. In December, Thorn's Radio Rentals division lost ground to rival Granada and Thorn proposed closing 90 underperforming stores. The performance is no better in the US, but sales there will have risen because of the Tidewater acquisition. Sales in Asia-Pacific are expected to show the strongest growth. Analysts are forecasting pre-tax profits of £170 million, down marginally from the previous year. The final dividend is unlikely to rise.

EMI GROUP: Hopes are high that the group will have had a strong fourth quarter as it unveils its first set of full-year figures today, since the demerger with Thorn.

Brokers are looking for profits in the fourth quarter to have risen from £53 million to £88 million, lifting overall profits from £367 million to £381 million. Part of the improvement stems from the popularity of the Spice Girls pop group and a solid performance from the HMV record store chain. The dividend is likely to grow 11 per cent to 30p.

STAKIS: The strong pound is unlikely to have much effect on what is expected to be an impressive performance from the group when it unveils half-year figures on Thursday. Analysts have pencilled in pre-tax profits of £23.6 million compared with £12 million for the corresponding period. The rise in earnings is likely to be a more modest 38 per cent, to 23.6p.

Reports from other hotel operators indicate that current trading in London and the provinces remains buoyant with no impact on forward bookings from currency factors.

In the meantime, brokers will be anxious to tackle the company on how it intends to integrate the Metropole chain of hotels bought earlier this year from Louisa.

The news is also likely to be brighter on the gambling front with attendances up at all 21 casinos. The interim dividend should grow from 0.95p to 1.2p.

MICHAEL CLARK

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Care UK, Mcleod Russell Holdings, Scottish Investment Trust, Finsbury, EMI Group, Monks Investment Trust, OMI International, James Smith Estates, Economic Intelligence, French April household consumption, OECD ministerial meeting (day two of two), US April housing sales, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills, API weekly oil supply statistics.

TOMORROW

Interims: Alders, ANZ Banking Group, Calltech Group, Foreign & Colonial Emerging Markets, Kasey Industries, Kinnock, M&G Group, PWS Holdings, Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, Finsbury, Anglian Water, Bristol United Press, Dawson International, Lumina, Shire Income, Thorn.

THURSDAY

Interims: G&S Publishing, Richards, Stale, United Drug, Finsbury, Dair Group, Fulcrum Investment Trust, London International Group, Mid Kent, Phoenix, Radcliff Properties, Rolfe & Nolan, Saton Healthcare, Siebe, South West Water, Tilling International Group, United Utilities, Economic Intelligence, UK March global, April non-EU trade, UK April harmonised consumer prices index.

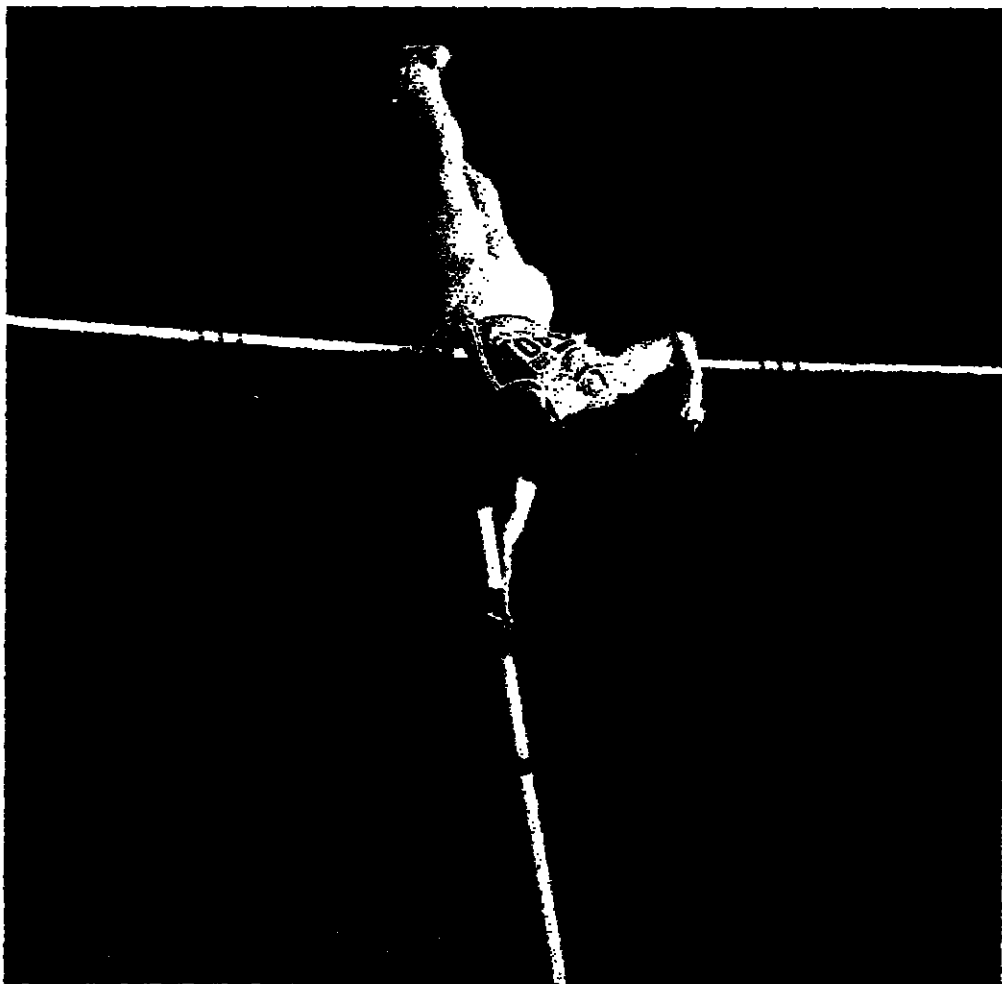
FRIDAY

Interims: Eidos (q4), Hanscom, RCO Holdings, Finsbury, Barstons Healthcare, Oxford Instruments, Property Partnerships, TR Property Investment Trust, Yorkshire Water, Economic Intelligence, Royal Bank of Scotland oil and gas index, British Bankers Association end-April monthly mortgage lending.

END OF THE DAY

The Sunday Times: Bay Harelock, Burmah Castrol: Hold APV. The Sunday Telegraph: Bay Racal, Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries. The Observer: Bay Land Securities, MEPC. Independent on Sunday: Bay Callahan, T.J. Hughes. Sunday Business: Bay Dairy Crest, Thistle Hotels. The Mail on Sunday: Bay Henlys, Hold Waterfall, Sell Country Gardens. Express on Sunday: Bay Cantab, Bass.

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TODAY'S RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.23	2.08
Austria Sch	20.25	18.74
Belgium Fr	50.78	55.13
Canada \$	2.348	2.172
Cyprus Cyp	0.880	0.786
Denmark Kr	11.02	10.19
France Fmk	8.91	8.11
France Fr	8.70	8.88
Germany Dm	2.80	2.88
Greece Dr	407	427
Hong Kong \$	13.33	12.50
Iceland Pk	127	107
Ireland Pk	1.13	1.05
Israel Shk	5.95	5.21
Italy Lira	2075	2094
Japan Yen	306.10	165.70
Malta	0.653	0.586
Netherlands Gld	3.073	2.994
New Zealand \$	2.51	2.28
Norway Kr	15.05	11.15
Portugal Esc	208.00	208.50
S Africa Rd	7.95	7.05
Spain Ptas	245.80	225.00
Sweden Kr	15.12	12.08
Switzerland Fr	2.43	2.25
Turkey Lira	288.50	219.50
USA \$	1.226	1.262

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HOW TO SUCCEED



عكذا من الأصل

On Wednesday September 10, 1992, with the economy on its knees, the then-president of the CBI delivered himself of the remarkable judgement that "we need 15 per cent base rates like we need a hole in the head." But if it is a choice between that and devaluation then I suppose it will have to be. Fortunately for his members, there was another way out — floating the currency.

Five years ago, CBI advice was simply stupid and self-destructive. Today, the organisation's advice is self-serving but destructive for the rest of us. For the CBI, like the rest of the latter-day Bonapartes who clamoured for ERM entry, now favours tax increases as the way to "deal with" an exuberant economy and rapidly falling unemployment.

Even accepting that the economy needs to be reined back to keep inflation low (a judgment that the most supply-side-minded economists contest), why on earth should economic success be rewarded with tax increases?

Taxes are an economic evil,

No such thing as the 'right' exchange rate

Bernard Connolly explains why Tony Blair should retain a floating currency and resist the temptation to raise taxes

necessary to provide genuine public goods and to provide for the genuinely poor — they should never be used to keep the private sector on a leash. The alternative prescription involves higher interest rates and a climbing pound, the hallmarks of a successful capitalist economy in a period of strong growth. Sadly, however, mercantilism still reigns in many dark corners of the British economic non-nomenclature. And while the economy may be delivering the goods metaphorically, it is not doing so literally — services not manufacturing are booming.

To a certain cast of mind, this is doubly distressing. First, services are often regarded as the province of the true entrepreneur: the man or woman who takes risks to make profits, rather than those "captains of industry" (or their supposed representatives) who too often seek an assured return — a

rent — through cosying up to the Government. Second, the service sector is more "disorderly", almost anarchic. Its success depends much on the mood of the private sector, not on the will of the authorities. That is not pleasing to the great and good who feel that when they push a button or pull a lever the economy ought to respond obediently and predictably to their command.

In short, the British economy is showing all the characteristics of a truly capitalist system. That is the result of Thatcherism, and in no small measure of the abolition of capital controls in 1979. That was a decision that transferred power from the State to the private sector

— far more momentous than Gordon Brown's transferring power over interest rates from one part of the State to another.

Once capital could flow freely, the expected rate of return on capital was restored to its rightful place as the keystone of the economy — the variable that runs everything else. If a truly capitalist economy is to survive and prosper, its government must put in place structural policies (not least low taxes) that generate bullish private sector expectations of the rate of return.

But, as Knut Wicksell, the great Swedish economist, pointed out a century ago, if the anticipated rate of return goes up, the real rate of

interest must also go up. If it does not, there will be a cumulative process of rising asset prices (equities and property in particular), overinvestment and unwise lending by banks until an over-extended boom goes bust.

In our world of integrated capital markets, the real rate of interest in a successful economy can rise above the world rate only if that economy's real exchange rate is expected to depreciate. For that to happen, the real exchange rate must first rise above its notional long-run equilibrium level.

In other words, losing "competitiveness" in the upswing is absolutely essential in a capitalist

economy such as Britain's. Some manufacturers will have their rents reduced in the process; that is capitalism's "gale of creative destruction", the genius of a system that in 200 years transformed, hugely for the better, the everyday life of ordinary people after centuries in which aristocracy — whether titled or not — corporatism and mercantilism (a good description of the governing principles to which Macmillan, Heath, Wilson and Callaghan disastrously returned) preserved the privileges of the few at the expense of misery for the many.

Capitalism, benign though it is, is a cyclical system. Jumps in "animal spirits" produce jumps in spending on houses, consumer durables and business investment. But the frenetic rate of spending will not (unless spurred on by over-tax monetary policies) last for ever. When it falls away, interest rates

must fall with it, and so must the currency. "Competitiveness" must improve again. New Labour is right to want to avoid a permanently high level of sterling; but even more right to eschew ERM re-entry. In a dynamic capitalist economy, there is simply no such thing as the "right" exchange rate for more than an instant.

If Tony Blair means what he says about embracing capitalism, he must at the same time renounce corporatism. If he wants to fulfil his aim of improving the quality of public goods and of provision for the poor, he must keep taxes as low as possible. If he wants to improve the private opportunities available to the many he has to accept the "permanent revolution" stigmatised by that most patrician of corporatists, Douglas Hurd. And all that means that he — and the CBI — will have to learn to live with a yo-yoing pound.

Bernard Connolly is Managing Director, International Economics, at AIG International.

Banks look at risk in new light

More than half of the 300 major banking houses in the UK are planning to change their approach to operational risk, a London conference will be told today.

The British Bankers' Association (BBA) will unveil the results of a survey conducted by Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant that shows 62 per cent of participants will beef-up their approach to operational risk, while nearly 75 per cent are now spending more money on monitoring techniques.

The BBA, which identifies operational risk as a systems failure, a control error, a criminal act and personnel risks, said 69 per cent of banks "now consider that operational risk is as significant as, or more significant than, market or credit risk."

This year, the BBA plans to study reputational risk and how it affects the City and consumers.

Co-op hearing

The Co-op goes to court tomorrow in the first leg of its private prosecution battle against Andrew Regan, the City whizzkid who tried to take over the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and his allies David Lyons and Allan Green.

The hearing at Marylebone Magistrates' Court will decide where to try the case.

Barclays plea

Barclays, the Chancellor, must take action now to stop a "volatile cycle" of growth and inflation, claims Barclays' chief economist, director. The best way to avoid such a cycle is for monetary policy to be tightened by raising interest rates, said Chris Wright in the bank's second quarterly review for 1997.

CMC links confirmed by NatWest

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

NATWEST MARKETS, the securities arm of the high street bank, has admitted to links with City Mortgage Corporation (CMC), the controversial American lender that is currently under investigation by the Office of Fair Trading.

Last October the bank acquired Greenwich Capital Holdings, a company based in Connecticut. Greenwich's London office has supported City Mortgage Corporation since it set up operations two years ago by buying its loans and securitising them for the US market.

The link was revealed when solicitors acting for City Mortgage Corporation requested that Greenwich International, a subsidiary of Greenwich Capital, be appointed as co-plaintiff in a case involving a borrower fighting repossession.

Previous repossessions by City Mortgage Corporation have been done in its own name, prompting solicitors to think that they could now be successfully challenged.

The link with Greenwich has enabled City Mortgage to use "gain on sale" accounting, which incorporates future earnings from

the loans. These have been boosted because many borrowers have been unable to keep up with the company's interest payments and have been forced to pay its exorbitant redemption penalties, calculated under rule 78.

Gain of sale accounts for 75 per cent of the company's income, allowing it to pay high levels of commission to mortgage brokers.

This explains why City Mortgage's recent offer to abolish rule 78 from August will not apply to existing borrowers.

However, a former associate of the company likened this to Albanian pyramid selling because it requires a constant supply of new borrowers.

The Office of Fair Trading is understood to be preparing a code of practice for mortgage lenders based on the warning that it sent to City Mortgage and 69 other lenders and brokers in February. Practices such as dual rates, high redemption charges and excessive commissions to brokers will be included.

NatWest said that it was not its responsibility to police customers' businesses when they were within the law.



Wheat milkshakes are the order of the day at South Beach Cafes, an American bagel bar chain, floats on the Alternative Investment Market. The company, set up by Tom Burnham, pictured, is raising £18 million to open more London stores.

London to lead Europe for economic growth

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

LONDON'S economy is predicted to grow at a faster rate than any of its major European rivals over the next five years — even if Britain remains outside a single currency.

The European Economic Research and Advisory Consortium (Ereco), a group of leading economic research institutes, believes that London will continue to benefit from growth in the financial services sector and will maintain its position as Europe's most important financial market.

But in its annual report on European regional prospects, Ereco suggests that Birmingham will pip London to become the fastest growing major City in the UK. Economic growth in London is forecast to average 2.9 per cent over the next five years, compared with 2.6 per cent in Paris, 2.3 per cent in Frankfurt and 2.7 per cent in Milan.

The report points out that many of London's major activities, such as derivatives, fund management and insurance, will be little affected by the introduction of a single currency.

The new investment service directive, which will improve cross-border right of access to financial markets, could even strengthen London's position in equities. But Ereco cautions that the London market could lose some of its stranglehold over currency trading if UK-based banks are not permitted

full access to the Target euro settlement system.

Economic growth in Birmingham is expected to average 3 per cent a year over the next five years as the city's manufacturing sector continues its revival. Cardiff is also predicted to grow strongly, at 2.9 per cent, but the forecast for Manchester is just 2.3 per cent.

Britain is, economically at least, the seventh most free nation on earth, according to the Institute of Economic Affairs, the free market think-tank. The IEA claims to have drawn up a yardstick measuring the extent that citizens can engage in different economic affairs. Britain's position has improved from 34th in 1980 to seventh place.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6300 (-0.0075)
German mark 2.7557 (-0.0184)
Exchange index 98.1 (-0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 3003.0 (-11.3)
FTSE 100 4661.8 (-32.1)
New York Dow Jones 7345.91 (+151.24)
Tokyo Nikkei Avege 20009.00 (-315.73)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

LETHOLOGICA

(b) The inability to remember the right word. *Lethonomia* is the inability to recall the right name. Those who suffer from either should rehearse the phrase "Excuse my lethologica/lethonomia." This is an improvement on "It's on the tip of my tongue." Unfortunately those who suffer from the conditions will never remember it.

ULTRACREPIDARIAN

(a) Going too far, overstepping the mark, presumptuous, sticking your nose into somebody else's business. From the Latin *ultra* beyond + *crepidam* a cobbler's last. Apelles was the greatest painter of antiquity, and a favourite of Alexander the Great. A cobbler once corrected his drawing of a sandal latched in one of his paintings. When the cobbler went on to criticise the way Apelles had drawn the man's legs, the artist replied: *Ne sutor ultra crepidam*. "The cobbler should stick to his last [the foot-model on which shoes are fashioned]."

HUMICUBATION

(a) The act or practice of lying on the ground, usually symbolically in penitence or self-abasement. From the Latin *humus* the ground + *cubo*, *cubare* to lie down. "No, Philip, I am not intransigent or arrogant. All I expect from you is a decent modicum of humicubation."

ONERABLE

(c) Nothing to do with "honourable". But a variant of *onerous*, ie burdensome, troublesome, tiresome. From the Latin *onus* a weight. "I see that you have invited the Brigadier. He is an onerable old buffer, isn't he?"

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Nhg3 2 h3g3 Qg3+ 3 Kh1 Rd3 4 Qd3 Qh3+ 5 Kg1 Qg3+ with a perpetual check draw

THYSSEN
THYSSEN AKTIENGESellschaft

United Kingdom shareholders are advised that copies of the Interim Report of the Thyssen Group for the first six months of the fiscal year 1996/97 (from October 1, 1996 to March 31, 1997) are now available from SBC Warburg, Attn: Corporate Action Department - Paying Agency, Swiss Bank House, 1 High Timber Street, London EC4V 3SB.

Duisburg, Germany, May 1997

The Executive Board

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Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct Personal Choice® Variable Rate 7.59% per annum.

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Interventionist vows to mind our own business

Philip Bassett on what Margaret Beckett is doing as President of the Board of Trade

If it's Tuesday, it must be Japan. Margaret Beckett cracks a wry smile. "Other people manage to arrange Whitsun off," she says of the President of the Board of Trade. "I get to go to work." Such a joke reflects both her widely recognised diligence and her determination to pursue what is a key issue for new Labour in government: not just making business-friendly noises, but taking action to ensure the continuing and indeed improving competitiveness of British companies.

Talks with the head of Toyota yesterday as well as meetings with Japanese industry and finance ministers mark Mrs Beckett taking up the reins of a trip arranged by Ian Lang, her predecessor, who lost not only his ministerial job in the election, but also his seat. She may have taken up the reins, but she has a new purpose: to clarify for key inward investors in Japan the UK's new closeness to Europe, rubbing out Conservative charges in the election that if Labour were to win, such companies would quit Britain.

Talking to *The Times* before she set off for Japan, Mrs Beckett said: "Most Japanese companies will not be affected by the social chapter. They already do for their employees far more than any of the things in people's wildest dreams about the social chapter."

Before returning to Britain tomorrow, Mrs Beckett will concentrate in Japan on issues such as inward investment and exports. But she has taken with her advice on a number of key developments that are facing the DTI and on which she may need to move soon.

"So far, she's done very little," says one engineering company head. "Other departments are really moving — look at education, look at jobs, look at health, look at the Foreign Office. Especially Gordon Brown at the Treasury. In comparison with them, she's not done much at all."

So far, the DTI has signalled a rapid move to commercial freedom for Britain's long-hamstrung Post Office, and given an indication of the possible direction of competition policy in overruling advice from the Office of Fair Trading by referring some rail franchise bids to the Monopolies and



Margaret Beckett held talks with Shoichiro Toyoda in his capacity as chairman of Japan's Federation of Economic Organisations during her current trip there

Mergers Commission. But Whitehall officials defend her. Some of the issues at the DTI require more than a quick fix, says one, noting issues such as business competitiveness: "They're long-term, incremental issues which don't suit a political splash."

Partly, it's been turf wars — on regional policy, on insurance supervision, on the minimum wage. Crucially for the DTI, Mrs Beckett has won back the subject of competitiveness, which for personal reasons Michael Heseltine took with him when he moved from the DTI to the Cabinet Office. It never really fitted there: Mrs Beckett says it is central to the

DTI's work. "The DTI's job is to work for everybody else in Britain — to make sure we are a competitive economy."

To that end, she has in the ministerial red boxes that accompanied her to Japan advice on how to relaunch the competitiveness initiatives taken by the previous Administration. The three competitiveness White Papers are almost certainly associated too closely with Mr Heseltine to be adopted by the new Government, but according to Whitehall insiders, Labour intends to maintain strong pressure on the issue, with a new initiative due shortly.

In terms of such industrial

policy, Mrs Beckett is wholly unafraid of using such words as "interventionist", although she is dismissive of the before-meals interventionist rhetoric of Mr Heseltine. She insists that the Government will support companies in Britain — not by propping them up, but by helping them to do their jobs well.

Business leaders are already welcoming some steps that Mrs Beckett has made in Labour's first three weeks in office, on exports: setting up an export forum and scrapping the previous Government's cheeseparing cuts in funding for UK companies to attend international trade fairs, which

many companies value as a targeted means of securing export deals.

"We see a role for government in the way the previous Government did not," Mrs Beckett says. Like the successful Ministry of International Trade and Industry in Japan, which Mrs Beckett is visiting on her current trip, she intends that the UK Government will intervene directly if it is of help to assist British companies in winning deals.

"Whether it's a phone call, or something else that might change things, we will do it," she said. "If your government is not backing you, then there is clearly something wrong. Everybody else's government is backing them."

Mrs Beckett knows the value of such backing. As a Derby MP, she was closely involved in her town's successful efforts to persuade Toyota, the Japanese carmaker, to locate its principal UK manufacturing plant in the area. Far from a threat to local industry, she believes it has been a success — generating business, work and skills in precisely the kind of way Labour would like to encourage.

She intends to maintain in government the close links with business that she forged in opposition, through discreet but potent soundings carried out by bodies such as the Industry Forum, which she judges to have been of high value.

But despite wanting to keep in touch with business — Lord Simon of Highbury has joined her department from BP and Lord Hollick, the Labour industrialist, is advising her — Mrs Beckett is someone who knows her own mind and is not afraid to show it.

She is also judged by party leaders to be highly capable, on top of her business and industry brief, and cool under political fire. Though outsiders have concentrated on differences between her traditionalist Labour background and the modernisers around the Prime Minister, she is highly rated by the leadership.

She has some difficult issues to handle. Competition policy is perhaps the crucial one. Last week, before leaving for Japan, Mrs Beckett met Karl van Miert, the EU's Competition Commissioner, for talks on UK and European competition policy and legislation, and how the two systems can best be brought into line.

Mrs Beckett said: "One of the things that would be helpful to inform our consideration of the legislation is exploring, as time goes on, what are the flaws in their system as well as the advantages." She is aware of pressure from business in Britain for competition policy to be more coherent and transparent. Some competition issues are sharper than that. The planned alliance between British Airways and American Airlines is on both their desks.

The Government's legislative programme at present includes provision for a relatively limited Bill on competition, aimed at taking action against cartels and anticompetitive business practices. But the Bill could be expanded to take in the recommendations of the three-man inquiry headed by Lord Borrie, the former Director-General of Fair Trading, into both competition policy structures and key policy issues, such as changing the public interest basis in merger inquiries. The Borrie inquiry is expected to make recommendations to Mrs Beckett soon.

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Though in the election campaign she once or twice swerved round another vexed issue, the minimum wage, it is now in her department's brief. She confirms the intention to set up a Low Pay Commission, comprising employers, employees and independent members, in advance of the legislation to put a legal floor under wages in Britain.

She says she is impressed by the willingness of business and trade unions to take part in the planned process and by the quality of argument on the issue so far. Anti-government rhetoric expected at union conferences in the next few weeks may provide an early test of that favourable view.

But even with such difficulties, and any carping from industry that the DTI has so far not matched the pace set by ministers such as Gordon Brown at the Treasury, Mrs Beckett's judgment is that business is so far prepared to give the new Government a fair wind. She is determined to reciprocate, for the good of business, the economy and the country, and to take action which she believes will help the UK towards these ends: "There is a role for government. It's not doing business' job for it. But if they need support, we will give it."

A decade of uncertainty

The Death of Childhood
Channel 4, 9.00pm

A three-part series on child sex abuse opens by looking again at the Cleveland case which first hit the headlines ten years ago. A total of 12 children were taken into care amid allegations, supported by a senior police surgeon and a local MP and fanned by the tabloid press, that innocent families were being torn apart. The victims were social workers and two paediatricians, Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt, who examined the children and supported the abuse claims. Most of the children were returned to their families. The film suggests that Higgs and Wyatt were mainly right after all. Neither was free to take part in the programme but there is enough evidence from other sources to suggest that the children who complained of being abused were not making it up.



Joseph Carey Merrick (BBC1, times vary)

QED: The True Story of the Elephant Man
BBC1, times vary

More than 100 years after his death Joseph Merrick continues to exercise a grisly fascination, not least among doctors trying to explain the gross bodily disfigurement which earned him his nickname. With the help of material from the London Hospital Medical College, including photographs of Merrick not previously seen on television, this absorbing film reconstructs his short and anguished life and assesses the latest medical research. Sir Frederick Treves, the surgeon who took Merrick under his wing, could offer no explanation for what he called "the most disgusting specimen of humanity I have ever seen". More recently, medical opinion has been divided between neurofibromatosis, a hereditary condition, and Proteus syndrome, a defect of skin, blood vessels and bone. John Hurt, who played the Elephant Man in the cinema, narrates.

There's Only One Barry Fry
ITV (except Anglia), 10.40pm

The noisy, extrovert and hard-swearing Fry is a man made for television documentary. We met him previously when he was manager of Birmingham City. That ended in the sack and he moved on to Peterborough. This film charts his first year in

charge. Putting his money into the club, as well as his non-stop mouth, Fry starts with grand ideas and high ambitions. Three wins in the first 17 matches stopper both, though not Fry's ebullience. However, as the team slides further and further towards relegation, the dressing room dressing downs get increasingly fierce and Fry's language descends from merely bad to appalling. But his staid wife (any best signing?) and six children provide a domestic respite and despite the stress of the job, and the two heart attacks it has brought on, he says he would not change for anything.

Trauma: Life and Death in the ER
Channel 4, 11.00pm

This report from the emergency room of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania may be the "real" ER, but it is sometimes difficult to distinguish from the fictional version. There is the same frenetic camerawork, with its dizzying zooms and pans, and the same slick editing. Not only that but the doctors actually behave like the characters in the medical drama. Their lines are so well shaped that they could have been learnt from a script. Even so, there is no doubt about the dedication of this over-worked team, as it deals with a nightmarish intake of stabbings, gunshot wounds and car crash injuries. The sharp-eyed will notice that while the doctors are white, the patients are mostly black. This must say something about Philadelphia society. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Music Live 97: Tales from the Toppath
Radio 2, 9.30pm

The British canal system is now getting lottery money to assist the work of volunteers who spend their weekends digging, scraping and generally getting mucky to preserve our waterways. But all this effort is for pleasure purposes so that people with no previous experience can spend a week manhandling 70 feet of steel narrowboat. There is little hope of the canals reopening to freight, so this is a leisure and music exploration of the Manchester Ship Canal is a welcome reminder of how things were and how they might still be with a bit of imaginative investment. Mike Harding tells the story of the construction of a canal that, by linking Manchester with the coast, was to turn the city into the most prosperous in the north west.

Missing Mandy
Radio 4, 2pm

The half-hour plays in this afternoon slot consistently uncover high standards of writing, often by people new to the airwaves. *Missing Mandy*, the first radio play by Brian Dooley, is no exception. The story is essentially sad but it is told with great wit and a use of irony that makes it very British. Peter (Ian Dume) has been dumped by his girlfriend Mandy and takes to the streets. He meets most of his friends' pastimes, being sad about it. So he joins a self-help group, Grimming Through Grief, for the benefit of which he invents a story about Mandy dying in a bizarre accident. The trouble with one lie is that it begets others, which becomes complicated when another member of the group falls for Peter. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.00pm Jo Whiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00pm Ken Bruce 6.15pm News 6.30pm Evening Session 8.30pm Digital Update with Rachel Riley 9.00pm John Peel 10.30pm Mary Anne Hobbs 11.00pm Claire Sturgess 11.45pm Claire Warren

WORLD SERVICE

At times in 1997. News on the hour. 6.00am Newshour 6.30am News 7.15am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.15am News 8.30am News 8.45am News 9.00am News 9.15am News 9.30am News 9.45am News 10.00am News 10.15am News 10.30am News 10.45am News 11.00am News 11.15am News 11.30am News 11.45am News 12.00am News 12.15am News 12.30am News 12.45am News 1.00am News 1.15am News 1.30am News 1.45am News 1.55am News 2.00am News 2.15am News 2.30am News 2.45am News 2.55am News 3.00am News 3.15am News 3.30am News 3.45am News 3.55am News 4.00am News 4.15am News 4.30am News 4.45am News 4.55am News 5.00am News 5.15am News 5.30am News 5.45am News 5.55am News 6.00am News 6.15am News 6.30am News 6.45am News 6.55am News 7.00am News 7.15am News 7.30am News 7.45am News 7.55am News 8.00am News 8.15am News 8.30am News 8.45am News 8.55am News 9.00am News 9.15am News 9.30am News 9.45am News 9.55am News 10.00am News 10.15am News 10.30am News 10.45am News 10.55am News 11.00am News 11.15am News 11.30am News 11.45am News 11.55am News 12.00am 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Martin Bell: a dead ringer for a Capra hero

Life can take more improbable turns than even the scariest better-seller. Guess who said this, for instance: "Sometimes in life, you have challenges. You can make a difference. You can take stands that you might regret not having taken. It's going to be uncomfortable. But why shouldn't I contribute something instead of standing on the outside of life, watching?"

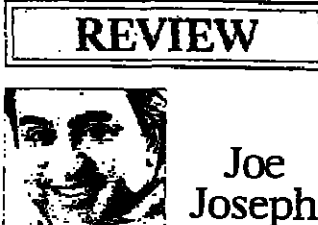
The Prince of Wales? Ginger Spice? Eric Cantona? Actually, it's Martin Bell, explaining, in *Mr Bell Goes To Westminster* (BBC2), how he came to be co-opted into standing in front of a TV camera in Bosnia with only a microphone in his hand, to the even scarier position of standing in front of several TV cameras in his hand. The idea behind his running for Parliament was to stop being a "mere" observer in life. What he learnt very quickly was that the

man with the microphone can be as powerful as the man with the rifle. And just as ruthlessly. "Bastards! Bastards!" cursed our white-suited hero after seeing how the BBC had reported his first walkabout of the election campaign. The BBC camera shadowed him through Wilmslow, but had, he felt, rejected truth in favour of a spicy story. So he telephoned his old boss to complain: "I have 25 in favour, three against, and you give me just one of the three against. What kind of journalism is that? How can you defend it?" And Bell thought his new mission was to clean up politics.

There really is a Frank Capra air about Bell and his victory as MP for Tatton. Partly this is because his tale, like Capra's *It Happened One Night*, or *Mr Smith Goes To Washington*, triumphs the essential goodness of the common man and ends with honesty and justice triumphing over greed and selfish-

ness — represented here by the Tory Neil Hamilton. As Neil tossed about his upstart rival, his misanthropic, concentrated on keeping those chevron eyebrows away from his forehead, creating the appearance of a woman in a permanent state of mild alarm, as though the invisible Man were goosing her.

But the Capraesque flavour is reinforced by the way Bell still talks in the lingo of the 1930s. It is as if he has spent so long abroad as a foreign correspondent that his idiom is frozen in a time warp. How was it, for example, that he seemed so flustered and conciliatory when the Hamiltons ambushed him on the beach at the start of the campaign? "I'm just not the kind of chap who comes up to a perfect stranger and says, Sir, you are a liar and a scoundrel!" You know what Marty? Not many of us still are.



Joe Joseph

Later, when explaining how he tackled the question of Hamilton's antics in a way that would avoid hurling mud and slander at the Conservative candidate, Bell tells us: "What I did was I quoted from the Army Act of 1955, as I had been a soldier, and what it was was 'Conduct Unbecoming'. People understand Conduct Unbecoming." You betcha! Peeking behind the scenes at his

makeshift campaign HQ, we can now be even more impressed by how Bell secured an 11,000 majority. It was like *Blue Peter* for grown-ups: an election campaign glued together from too rol tubey, empty Fairy Liquid bottles and sticky-backed plastic. A Victorian amateur adventurer assaulting Everest dressed in a three-piece tweed suit and spats would have seemed no less ambitious.

It made Lenny Henry's trip into the rainforest look straightforward. Henry — following not so much in the steps of Scott and Stanley and Hillary, but more in the steps of Joanna Lumley's desert island escapade — decided he really would play the amateur adventurer, but with full camera crew backup. In Lenny's Big Amazon Adventure (BBC1), the comedian waded into the Peruvian jungle with Lofy, Wiseman, a survival expert and SAS veteran. Lofy teaches Lenny how to light

fires and catch fish. After six days, Lofy leaves Lenny alone at night to test his mettle. Lenny survives.

This *Celebrity Dakari* (Billy Connolly has had a go, too) is becoming as fashionable as the Spice Girls. Sending Lumley or Connolly or Henry into the wilderness is very different from those Japanese game shows that Clive James used to mock: how much are the celebs willing to suffer for a TV commission?

Henry is too talented for this sort of thing. The effect was to highlight how much tougher Martin Bell had it in the political jungle. Ann Widdecombe can certainly bite more deeply than many tropical beasts. And, offered a choice between running into Christine Hamilton's eyebrows on a dark night, or a tarantula, you might choose Mrs Hamilton: but you'd think hard about it first.

Christine Hamilton now turns up on our TV screens as frequently as the Spice Girls. Ginger, Baby, Sparty, Seary and Posh — but, miraculously, not Mrs Hamilton — were the star turn in last night's *Royal Gala* (ITV). Held at Manchester's Opera House to celebrate 21 years of the Prince's Trust, this K-Tel style sampler of current popular culture gathered together everybody from Julian Clary, Stephen Fry and Michael Barrymore, through excerpts from Cirque du Soleil and *Beauty and the Beast*, to the Manchester United football squad and, of course, the Spice Girls. These Culture McNuggets would make a handy video to send to great-uncles who fled to tropical corners of the Empire years ago and might be interested to know how the folks back in Blighty are being entertained, now that old staggers such as Max Miller are no longer around. Or Neil Hamilton, come to that.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (54244)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (59802)
- 9.00am Breakfast News Extra (1) (3602756)
- 9.20am Style Challenge (6146973)
- 9.45am Krazy (1) (7491621)
- 10.30am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (64602)
- 11.00am News (1) and weather (7242466)
- 11.05am The Great Escape (1) (7600466)
- 11.25am Real Rooms (3391440)
- 12.00am News (1) and weather (879737)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (851743)
- 12.35pm Mary Berry at Home (5988843)
- 1.00am News (1) and weather (69085)
- 1.30am Regional News and weather (88292756)
- 1.40am The Weather Show (6941843)
- 1.45am Neighbours (1) (40381485)
- 2.10am Quiney (1) (6120447)
- 2.55am Through the Keyhole (8889640)
- 3.20am Closest Secrets has colourful history of the (1) (6239311)
- 3.30am Playdays (1) (8742911) 3.50am Playdays (1) (8742911) 3.55am Arthur (8752398) 4.20am Julia Jekyll and Janet Hyde (1) (7180602) 4.35am The Twisted (1) (1854911) 5.00am Newsround (1) (4012843) 5.10am Act-a-Rama (1) (6889699)
- 5.35am Neighbours (1) (158486)
- 6.00am News (1) and weather (821)
- 6.30am Regional News (286)
- 7.00am Holiday: Fasten Your Seatbelt John Holdsworth takes his hand as a steward on the Orient Express and tells us why he grips with a Venetian gondolier (1) (7821)
- 7.30am EastEnders: Ricky has a night out with the lads (1) (485)
- 8.00am Children's Hospital: A boy whose hand has been damaged by a firework is rushed into the casualty unit (1) (3689)
- 8.30am Only Fools and Horses: Classic comedy, with David Jason and Nicholas Lyndhurst (1) (2178)
- 9.00am News (1) and weather (476)
- 9.30am The Jasper Carrott Trial: Highlights from 23 years of stand-up routines (1) (25000) WALE: 9.30am Week in Week Out (25000) 10.00am The Jasper Carrott Trial (19911) 10.30am QED (134569) 11.20am The X-Files (327802) 12.05am International Football: Scotland v Wales (2214409) 12.35am Film 97 (398979) 1.40am Cricket: Benson and Hedges Cup (817623) 2.00am 3.40am FILM: The Mean Streets (1985) (638709)
- 10.00am QED: The True Story of the Elephant Man (1) (231911)
- 10.50am The X-Files (1) (365602)
- 11.35am Film 97 with Barry Norman includes reviews of Absolute Power, starring and directed by Clint Eastwood; Turbulence with Ray Liotta; The Secret Agent based on a novel by Joseph Conrad; and Stanley Tucci's latest movie Big Night (1) (78195)
- 12.10am Cricket: Benson and Hedges Cup (1528426)
- 1.00am The Mean Streets (1985) with Kurt Russell, Richard Gere, and Andy Garcia. A Miami journalist strikes up an uneasy relationship with a serial killer. Directed by Philip Barbois (1) (504374)
- 2.40am Weather (155428)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The nearest next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to programme your video recorder to record a particular programme. To find the Video PlusCode for a programme, go to the Video PlusCodes section on the back of the TV Guide. Video PlusCodes are also available on the back of the TV Guide. Video PlusCodes are also available on the back of the TV Guide.

BBC2

- 6.00am Open University: Scenes from Dr Faustus (891911) 6.25am San Marco: A Dominican Priory (8957718) 6.50am Crime and Punishment (8431331) 7.15am See Hear Breakfast News (3329621)
- 7.30am Juniper Jungle (724938) 7.40am Eek! the Cat (387538) 7.45am Thunderbirds (3874666) 7.50am Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (1836060) 8.15am Buried Treasure (8433940) 8.35am Raccoons (373805)
- 9.00am Red Nose Awards (1) (84973)
- 10.00am Teletubbies (44282) 10.30am The Adventures of Skippy (82244) 11.00am Madras Jeffery's Flavour of India (884343) 12.00am See Hear! (18924) 12.30pm Working Lunch (43466) 1.00am Juniper Jungle (10273224) 1.10am A-Z of Food (85218824) 1.20am Alias Smith and Jones (8212263) 2.10am Making Babies (7819640) 3.00am News (1) (6827737) 3.05am Making Babies (8511718) 3.55am News (1) (500811)
- 4.00am Blockbusters (508308) 4.25am Ready, Steady, Cook (5093447) 4.55am Esther: With 1960s icon Twiggy, featuring contributions from director John Schlesinger and photographer Terry O'Neill (1981973) 5.30am Today's the Day (350)
- 6.00am Fresh Prince of Bel Air Will and Lisa: Agree to see a marriage counselor before tying the knot (1) (74589)
- 6.25am Heartbreak Hotel (1) (152006)
- 7.10am The O Zone (422737)
- 7.30am Homeground: Insight into the contrasting lives and opinions of two neighbours in rural Sussex. TV writer Colin Lane, well-known for her campaign against animal cruelty, and Roy Clark, whose family have run a shooting estate for more than 200 years (1) (517)
- 8.00am Two Fat Ladies: Clarissa Dickson Wright and Jennifer Paterson come to the aid of hungry priests at Westminster Cathedral (1) (4891)
- 9.30am Food and Drink: A two-part compilation of the series' highlights (1) (4878)
- 9.00am Touching Evil: A spate of barbaric attacks on young people leads Oregon to a group of young people being manipulated by a role-playing game on the Internet. With Robson Green, Adam Katz and Shaun Dingwall (1) (6466)
- 10.00am News (1) (11379)
- 10.30am Regional News (774466)
- 10.40am News (1) (11379)
- 11.15am Ruby with the secessionist Frances Barber and Meera Syal and the Marquess of Bath (618469)
- 11.55am The Phil Silvers Show (104843)
- 12.25am Weather (252533)
- 12.30am Learning Zone: Open University: The True Geometry of Nature (27765) 1.00am The Root of the World (78751) 1.30am Mind Readers (24428) 2.00am Signed Landmarks: Portrait of Britain (61577) 4.00am Teaching and Learning with IT (37577) 4.30am Teaching and Learning with IT Special (8816) 5.00am Inside Europe (8888) 5.30am Film Education (2883)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
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